

Hafa Adai!

# Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XVIII, Issue No. 190

TUESDAY JULY 8, 2008

www.saipantribune.com 50¢



## OPINION METER

**This week's poll:**  
On a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest, how would you rate the quality of life in the CNMI right now?

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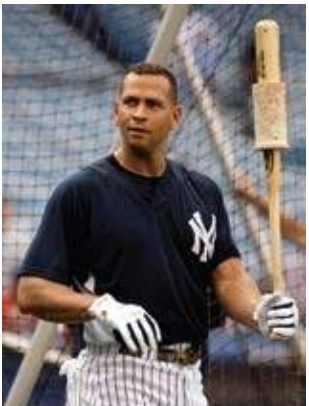
## INSIDE



### Cooler Weather

Firefighters on Sunday took advantage of cooler, damper weather to battle a vast blaze ravaging California.

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### Divorce

Alex Rodriguez's wife will file for divorce Monday, according to media reports.

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Gonzales, Lizama file papers for delegate bid. **PAGE 2**

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# Talks on federalization to start with DHS' visit

By AGNES E. DONATO  
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REPORTER

Officials from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security are expected to arrive Friday to begin talks about the implementation of the new CNMI immigration law.

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## 27 homeless after fire hits Garapan building

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
REPORTER

A fire of still unknown cause razed a portion of a commercial building along Middle Road corner Dama Di Noche Street in Garapan yesterday afternoon, rendering 27 persons homeless.

No one was reported hurt, based on the initial assessment by police and firefighters.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that the fire started

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Firefighters view the thick smoke coming from one of the rooms on the second floor of the three-story commercial building in Garapan during the blaze yesterday afternoon.

FERDIE DELA TORRE



AP

In this February 27, 2008 file photo, euro coins and dollar bills are seen in Frankfurt, central Germany.

## The buck doesn't stop here; it just keeps falling

By TOM RAUM  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—Things in the U.S. sure are tough. Brother, can you spare a euro?

Brazilian Supermodel Gisele Bundchen no longer wants to be paid in dollars. Signs saying "We accept euros" are cropping up in the windows of some Manhattan retailers. A Belgium company is trying to gobble up St. Louis-based Anheuser-Busch, the nation's largest brewer

See **THE BUCK** on Page 4

## Group holds rally, dares Fitial to talk to them

By AGNES E. DONATO  
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REPORTER

**We are not a radical group; we even came with kids. We just wanted to talk to him about the CUC contracts.**

—Gregorio Cruz, president, Taotao Tano CNMI Inc.

The community group Taotao Tano held a rally outside the administration building yesterday to demand the resignation

See **GROUP** on Page 4



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## Local

# Gonzales, Lizama file papers for delegate bid

By **AGNES E. DONATO**  
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REPORTER

Television talk show host John Oliver Gonzales and retired Judge Juan T. Lizama are the first two candidates to make official their bid for U.S. congressional delegate.

The Commonwealth Election Commission yesterday started accepting candidacy papers and nominations for the Northern Marianas' first federal election.

Gonzales, together with his chief campaign manager, re-

tired Judge Edward Manibusan, came in at 1:30pm. Former Sen. Ramon "Kumoi" Guerrero filed on behalf of Lizama at 4pm. Lizama is off island and will not be back until July 16, 2008.

Ten other individuals have picked up nomination packets from the Election Commission. They are on-leave Election Commission executive director Gregorio Sablan, Resident Rep. Pete A. Tenorio, Sen. Luis Crisostimo Rep. Ray N. Yumul, former Sen. David Cing, David Attao, Bruce Bateman, Patrick

Calvo, Paul William Camacho, and Chong Won.

Of these potential candidates, only Yumul has come out publicly about withdrawing from the race.

Gonzales submitted about 600 voter signatures with his candidacy petition. Lizama's candidacy documents came



Lizama

with nearly 1,000 signatures.

The nomination requirements that previously applied to candidates for Washington representative are now being applied to the congressional hopefuls.

Nominating petitions must include signatures of at least 200 registered voters and a filing fee



Gonzales

of \$500. These requirements apply for both political party and independent nominations.

Asked about the Gonzales camp's decision to file early, Manibusan said, "We are ready. John has been prepared to run from the first day the law was signed. We are prepared for the campaign and what lies ahead in Washington, D.C."

Manibusan said he chose Gonzales because the 37-year-old candidate "is enthusiastic and brilliant, and he is not part of the old establishment." He also touted as a huge advantage Gonzales' family background,

which Manibusan said mirrors the diversity of the people in the Commonwealth. Gonzales is the son of a Filipino immigrant father and a Chamorro mother, and is married to a woman of Japanese descent.

For his part, Guerrero said Lizama is the most qualified of the congressional candidates. "He was a judge. He interpreted the law, the Constitution, and the Covenant. That is the kind of person we need to represent us in Congress," he said.

The deadline for submitting nominating petitions is Wednesday, Aug. 6, 2008.

## New marketplace plan seen to revive Tinian agriculture

By **STEFAN SEBASTIAN**  
stefan\_sebastian@saipantribune.com  
BUSINESS EDITOR

A bid by Tinian's mayor to establish a new marketplace for farmers and ranchers could revive the island's once prosperous agriculture sector if government officials agree to fund it.

Board members of the Marianas Public Land Trust, the government agency tasked with managing leases on public land, held a public hearing on Tinian yesterday to hear Mayor Jose San Nicolas and his staff present the plan. Details on the pro-

posal were scarce at press time as several sources in the MPLT and the Tinian mayor's office refused to discuss it, saying further information would be available Tuesday.

However, a confidential government source says the mayor has asked MPLT for \$1.3 to \$1.4 million in loans to start the new marketplace, where local farmers and ranchers could sell fruits, vegetable and meats. According to the source, government revenue generated by the operation of a casino on the island would fund

repayment of the loan.

"Tinian used to be the biggest producer of fruits and vegetables in this area," the source said, adding that a revival of the island's agricultural industry could give a significant boost to the local economy. "Agriculture is part of the roots of Tinian. If that can be jumpstarted again, it'll be something that comes from the land and from hard work that is going to provide a stable market in the economy."

The project may include a "mobile slaughterhouse" that could give ranchers a federal

approval for the beef they bring to sell at the market, the source said.

One key aspect of the plan is its inclusion of so-called "value added" sales, a concept that could increase the market's profits, the source added.

Generally, value added sales involve marketing products for use in the manufacturing of other goods. In the case of the proposed market, the source noted that watermelons grown on Tinian, for example, could be sold to producers of candy or fruit juice.

## Estate administrator seeks help to protect \$5M assets

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

The administrator of an estate has asked the Superior Court to protect the estate by freezing its assets to ensure that those rightfully entitled for distribution will get their share.

Pedro Kani Teigita, through counsel Robert H. Myers Jr., asked the court to immediately freeze and account the proceeds

from the \$5 million lease agreement over the estate's Lot No. 663 in Sadog Dogas, Saipan.

The issue will be heard before presiding judge Robert Naraja today, Tuesday, at 1:30pm.

In a motion for asset freeze and reservation of funds, Myers asked the court to authorize petitioner Pedro Teigita and any other persons best suited to administer the estate of Mariana

See **ESTATE** on Page 4

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# Oil costs force LPG, Mobil to hike prices

By **STEFAN SEBASTIAN**  
stefan\_sebastian@saipantribune.com  
BUSINESS EDITOR

Record high oil prices drove up prices at Mobil gas stations throughout the Commonwealth for the third time in two months

## MPLT office plan sparks controversy

By **STEFAN SEBASTIAN**  
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BUSINESS EDITOR

The Marianas Public Land Trust's recently approved plan to construct a new office building for its staff sparked controversy last week after a local indigenous rights group cried foul over the agency's purchase of a private land for the project.

The MPLT, the agency tasked with managing the money generated from leases of public land, is currently housed at the Retirement Fund building on Capitol Hill.

In May, the agency's board approved a plan to purchase 4,000 square meters of private land and construct the new building at a cost of roughly \$700,000. Yet former House Speaker Oscar Rasa, a spokesman for CNMI Descent for Self Government and Indigenous Rights, has raised questions about the agency's purchase, saying it should have used public land instead.

"The question becomes: Why are they using private land when they have so much public land available?" Rasa said in an inter-

view last week. "In my opinion, somebody here stands to benefit at the expense of the people."

In addition, the deal raised concerns for at least one of MPLT's board members, Norman Tenorio, who voted against it. In an interview, Tenorio said the proposal left too many questions unanswered and that the decision to build on private property rather than public land "didn't jive with me."

MPLT chair Alvaro Santos, however, said the trust weighed a host of options, including several sites on public land, before selecting the property for the new offices. MPLT chose to build on private land, he said, after government officials revealed any deal for public land would carry a five-year limit beyond which the fund would have to vacate the site.

"We kind of gave up on the public land search after that," Santos said, adding that the plan still requires approval from several government offices. In addition, he noted that the agency plans to release requests for proposals seeking contractors and architects.

## Ex-convict is arrested anew for alleged assault of GF, 3 others

An ex-convict was arrested again for allegedly beating up his girlfriend and three other persons at a residence in As Matuis Saturday early morning.

Sydney C. Kani, 27, beat up his girlfriend, who was at that time holding their 10-month-old baby, police said.

Kani was arrested for assault and battery. A \$4,000 cash bail was initially imposed for his temporary liberty. A bail hearing was set yesterday afternoon.

Detective Nicholas C. Leon Guerrero Jr. stated in his report that, when he served a copy of the complaint to Kani, the defendant refused to sign and receive the documents, describing them as "s\_t."

Leon Guerrero said police officers responded to As Matuis after they received a call on Saturday at 4:01am about a beating incident.

Officers learned that Kani's girlfriend and some of her in-laws left their house at 1am that day and went to the USP Club in Garapan where she had two beers.

The group proceeded to Tanapag Beach before heading home. When she and her in-laws arrived at the house, she heard her 10-month-old baby crying. The girlfriend ran into the house and took the baby.

Angry that she came home late, Kani allegedly grabbed her and tried to punch her. The girlfriend ran out the house with the baby, but Kani followed her to the car. He allegedly grabbed her and punched her head. He then allegedly pushed her to the ground and began kicking her. At the time she was still holding the baby.

The girlfriend then ran inside the front passenger of the car with the baby. Kani allegedly continued punching her legs and tried to grab the baby.

Police said Kani also assaulted three other individuals who had tried to stop him from beating her up. The three individuals—one male and two females—suffered bruises in different parts of the body.

In December 2007, police arrested Kani for allegedly beating up his minor girlfriend at their apartment in Tanapag.

It was not clear whether she was the same girl that he allegedly beat up last Saturday.

During a hearing in federal court in July 2000, Kani pleaded guilty to two counts of interference with commerce by robbery in connection with two robbery cases at a poker arcade and a store. He was sentenced to prison. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

dropped slightly as of press time to \$144.20.

On Saipan, prices at Mobil station's jumped 25 cents to \$5.05 per gallon. Mobil's diesel prices saw a corresponding increase of 31 cents to 5.98 per gallon. The price hike appears confined for now to Mobil stations. However, Shell stations

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#### PREMIUM

Self service \$5.20 per gallon  
Full service \$5.32 per gallon

Diesel \$5.97 per gallon

matched Mobil's price increases last month later in the same week and a Shell station attendant said the company's staff is expecting to receive word of a price increase soon.

Observers attributed the price rally in part to fresh assertions by officials in Iran, the world's fourth largest exporter of oil, that they will continue enriching uranium for the nation's controversial nuclear program, and fears any military confrontation

over the program will disrupt shipments.

High demand and the weak dollar is also being blamed for the soaring prices of crude oil.

OPEC President Chakib Khelil told an energy conference in Algiers on Sunday that the steady price increases of late were unrelated to supply and demand, blaming the weak U.S. dollar, oil's primary currency of exchange.


According to the AAA fuel

gauge report, July 5th gas prices reached an all time high across the nation. One gallon of regular unleaded hit \$3.94. Diesel prices continue to hover around \$4.64.

Last year regular unleaded gas costs \$2.74 a gallon.

The national average is \$4.10 for regular unleaded. (*with AP*)

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THE BUCK

From Page 1

and iconic Super Bowl advertiser. The almighty dollar is mighty no more. It has been declining steadily for six years against other major currencies, undercutting its role as the leading international banking currency. The long slide is fanning inflation at home and playing a major role in the run-up of oil and gasoline prices everywhere. Vacationing Europeans are finding bargains in the U.S., while Americans in Paris and other world capitals are being clobbered by sky-high tabs for hotels, travel and even sidewalk cafes. Northern border-city Americans who once flocked into Canada for shopping deals are staying home; it's the Canadians flocking here now. Everything made in America—from goods to entire companies—is near dirt cheap to many foreigners. Meanwhile, American consumers, both those who travel and those who stay at home, are seeing big price increases in energy, food and imported goods. The dollar has lost roughly a quarter of its purchasing power against the currencies of major U.S. trading partners from its peak in 2002. Since oil is bought and sold in dollars worldwide, the devalued dollar has made the recent surge in energy prices even worse for Americans, leading to \$4 gasoline in the United States. Analysts suggest that of the \$140 a barrel

that oil fetches globally, some \$25 may be due to the devalued dollar. Further declines in the dollar will add to oil's appeal as a commodity to be traded. Oil, suggests influential energy consultant David Yergin, is "the new gold." The limp greenback has had one big benefit to the U.S. economy: Since it makes American goods cheaper overseas, it has helped manufacturers who export and other U.S. based companies with international reach. Exports have been one of the few bright spots in an otherwise darkening U.S. economy. Franklin Vargo, vice president of international economic affairs at the National Association of Manufacturers, welcomes the dollar slide, as do members of his organization. "We can see that, when the dollar's not overpriced, that people around the world want American goods and our exports are going gangbusters now," he said. He doesn't see the dollar as undervalued. He sees it as having being overpriced in the 1990s—and what's happened since as something along the lines of a correction. Still, Vargo acknowledges the dollar's decline has brought a measure of pain to some consumers. "As the dollar has gone down in value, that has added to the dollar cost of oil. No question. So having the dollar decline is not unambiguously a plus. That's why we say there's got to be a balance there somewhere. What we want is a Goldilocks

dollar. Not too strong, not too weak. But just right. And only the market can determine that," Vargo said. Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Economy.com, said expanding exports due to a weak dollar are "an important source of growth, but it doesn't add a lot to jobs, it doesn't mean very much for the average American household. For the average American, for the average consumer, these are pretty tough times." The loss of the dollar's purchasing power and international respect has some experts worrying that the euro might one day replace the dollar as the so-called primary reserve currency. And that could trigger a dollar rout as foreign governments and international investors flee from U.S. Treasury bonds and other dollar-denominated investments. Making matters worse: The gaping U.S. current-account deficit—the amount by which the value of goods, services and investments bought in the U.S. from overseas exceeds the amount the U.S. sells abroad—and the low levels of domestic savings means that foreigners must purchase more than \$3 billion every business day to fund the imbalance. Since roughly half of the nation's nearly \$10 trillion national debt is held by foreigners, mostly in Treasury bills and bonds, such a withdrawal could have enormous consequences. Yet Washington finds its options limited.

President Bush asserts longtime support for a "strong" dollar—an assertion he made again last week in a Rose Garden news conference. "We're strong-dollar people in this administration and have always been for a strong dollar and believe that the relative strengths of our economy will reflect that," he said. But not once in his presidency has the U.S bought dollars on foreign exchange markets—called intervention—to help prop up the greenback. There's no telling where the buck will stop these days, although for the past few weeks it seems to be in a holding pattern. Even as three Bush Treasury secretaries in a row spouted the strong-dollar mantra, the dollar kept tumbling against the euro, the pound, the yen, the Canadian dollar and most other major currencies. The Federal Reserve could prop up the dollar by increasing interest rates under its control. Increased yields would make dollar-denominated investments more attractive to foreigners. But that could undercut the already anemic economic growth in a frail U.S. economy rocked by soaring fuel costs, falling home prices and rising unemployment—and the lowest reading of consumer confidence in 16 years. The Fed must do a balancing act between keeping the domestic economy from going into recession and keeping inflation at bay. Furthermore, no Fed likes to raise rates aggressively in a presidential election year. It seems more inclined

to hold interest rates low for now to give financial markets time to recover from the housing meltdown and credit crunch. It did just that in its meeting on June 25, leaving a key short-term rate at 2 percent. The rate reached that level in April after a series of aggressive cuts that brought it down 3.25 percentage points since September. Those cuts helped ease the housing and credit crises—but drove the dollar further down. In early June, Bush declared before his trip to Europe: "A strong dollar is in our nation's interests. It is in the interests of the global economy." That, plus a warning by Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke that the dollar's weakness was contributing to U.S. inflation, seemed to temporarily break the dollar's tumble. Presidents and Fed chairmen don't usually talk directly about the dollar and exchange rates—leaving that up to the Treasury secretary—and international bankers and investors took note of the high-level attention. Over the past few weeks, the dollar has remained relatively stable, although it took a dip after the Fed decided to leave rates unchanged. The long slide may not be over. Still, if the Fed moves to lift rates later this year, as some traders and investors anticipate, it could buttress the dollar and spur an exodus of speculators from the oil market—helping to both prop up the dollar and drive down oil prices. But few economists are sanguine that the economy will improve any time soon.

ESTATE

From Page 2

Kani-Teigita to temporarily release funds from the proceeds once deposited with the court. Myers said the funds should be paid for all costs and expenses of adminis-

tration, payoff to the former counsel(s), attorney's fees, any fee disputes, and settlement negotiations concerning assets and properties. The lawyer said the lease agreement on Lot 663 was executed on Jan. 30, 1991 between Tokai Saipan Inc. and (lessors) Pedro Kani, Magdalena K. Ruak, Anastasia K. Omar and An-

dres Kani. Myers said the lessors received \$500,000 deposit from Tokai Saipan on the same date. Under the lease agreement, the lessors were to be paid an additional \$4.5 million by lessee. In 1991, Pedro Kani filed a civil action because he wanted to probate the land in question.

He noted that because Lot 663 is the real property of decedent Mariana Kani-Teigita, in turn, so are the proceeds from any transaction over it. He added that Pedro Teigita believes that the court's help and protection are needed because the real property and its proceeds are in present and immediate danger.

"On information and belief, the petitioner strongly believes that credible information shows that the lessors have spent (or are still spending) the \$500,000 deposit," Myers said. "Petitioner and others believe the lessors are not entitled to that money and or any other monies thereof," he said.

GROUP

From Page 1

of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and all of his appointees. About 15 Taotao Tano members, their children in tow, stood for four hours in front of the Governor's Office, shouting calls for the governor to step down, or at least to come out and speak to them. Fitial and his police escorts reportedly left the building through the back door without addressing the small crowd.

"It's very disappointing he had to get four police officers to escort him. We are not a radical group; we even came with kids. We just wanted to talk to him about the CUC [Commonwealth Utilities Corp.] contracts," said Taotao Tano leader Gregorio Cruz. Taotao Tano has questioned CUC's \$5.1 million contract with the Guam-based DCM Group for the repair of Saipan's Power Plant I, and the \$885,000 contract with the Commonwealth Industrial Supply Co. Inc. for the repair of Power Plant II. Both companies have failed to com-

plete their work on schedule. The continuing repair at the power plants has prompted CUC to hire the U.K.-based Aggreko International to provide temporary power to Saipan at a cost of \$6 million. "Where is the rehabilitation that was supposed to take place? What is the administration going to do with those contracts? Are we going to continue spending money to repair something that should have fixed already?" Cruz asked. "If these officials can't do their job, they don't belong in office. They

should step down," he added. The *Saipan Tribune* tried to get comments from CUC executive director Tony Muna, but he has not responded at press time. Muna has called the DCM contract "a mistake." He has also reported that CISCO's work, which was supposed to have been completed in 2006, has been put on hold. It is not clear what CUC's next step will be on DCM or CISCO. Press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr. Reyes said he knew little about the March 2006 contract with CISCO, which had been given 120 days to fix

Power Plant II. But he played down the contractors' faults. "Maybe the engines are in a worse state than they expected. Those engines had been neglected for many years. Unfortunately, the mistakes of the past are coming back to haunt us. We're just trying to deal with the bad circumstances," he said. Reyes also called Taotao Tano's rally "a publicity stunt." "They're exercising their right to free speech. That's all right as long as they do it peacefully and they are not disturbing the peace," he said.

HOMELESS

From Page 1

inside one of the 14 rooms on the second floor of the three-story building. The rooms were reportedly being used as a barracks by some Chinese. Witnesses said the fire started at

4:30pm. No one was inside the room because of an outage at the time. The American Red Cross has already provided food and drinks to the affected occupants. All 27 are being temporarily housed at the Century Hotel in Garapan. Red Cross officials said they would be shouldering the hotel expenses of the victims for two

to three days. Li Ping Chou, owner and manager of New Corner Pocket Pool Bar and Restaurant, which is on the ground floor of the same building, said she had left her establishment at 4pm because there was a blackout. Chou said she was buying some items at SunLeader when somebody

told her that her place was on fire. "When I came, I couldn't go inside because there was smoke on the second floor and it's dangerous," she said. Chou said some Chinese persons occupy the second floor. Firefighters prevented the blaze from transferring to other establishments in the building such as Piano Poker, Fun

and Game Poker, and Club China. The building is reportedly owned by a Korean businessman who also operates the HANMI Hardware. When *Saipan Tribune* left the scene at 5:30pm thick smoke was still engulfing the second floor of the building. Police rerouted the traffic flow in the vicinity of the building.

TALKS

From Page 1

The Department of Homeland Security is the lead agency tasked with drafting the regulations for the application of the "federalization" law, which requires the U.S. government to assume control of local immigration. The names and itinerary of the visiting officials have yet to be announced. But press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr. said yesterday the Fitial administration will work with the

federal officials, even as it pursues legal action to stop the U.S. government's takeover. "I think you can do that concurrently," Reyes said about the administration's plan to sue while negotiating with the U.S. government. Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has announced he had hired a team of U.S.-based attorneys to review a draft complaint challenging the recently enacted immigration law for the Northern Marianas. Howard Willens, one of the governor's legal counsels, drafted the complaint. Jenner & Block, a national law

firm with offices in Chicago, New York and Washington, D.C., is doing the review. Reyes said the administration has not set a specific timeline for the legal review and the possible filing of the lawsuit. "It all depends on the attorneys," he said. He reiterated the governor's expressed concern about language in the immigration legislation requiring the number of foreign workers in the Commonwealth to be brought down to zero by Dec. 31, 2014, or whenever the transition period ends.

The governor has said that most of the foreign workers now in the Commonwealth would not qualify for U.S. work visas and would have to go home. "It's just inconceivable. We cannot have all of the workers leave. Not only do they fill most of the jobs, they also contribute to the economy. Without them, the businesses will not have a market," Reyes said. Federal Ombudsman Jim Benedetto, who helped write the legislation and who will help draft the regulations, has said the Commonwealth has little rea-

son to worry about losing the ability to hire foreign workers. The transitional program allowing the CNMI to keep its foreign worker program will continue as long as the Commonwealth's economy need guest workers. Even after the transition period ends, foreign workers can enter the CNMI through the federal program. "Theoretically, it's possible that we'd go down to zero [foreign workers]. But is that going to happen? I don't think so. I don't think you really have anything to worry about," he has said in a recent forum for guest workers.

# Dr. Hocog's trial in federal court begins

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

The jury trial of Dr. Larry Hocog in federal court started yesterday, on charges that he distributed a controlled substance from September to November 2007.

After the jury selection, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson gave instructions to the 14 jurors. The prosecution and defense began their opening arguments in the afternoon.

Assistant U.S. attorney Eric O'Malley said in his opening statement that this is case of a doctor who made "a deliberate decision to violate the federal law."

O'Malley said the evidence will show that Dr. Hocog not only violated the law once, twice, but 90 times in the course of three months in 2007.

O'Malley said the drugs that the defendant unlawfully dispensed to outpatients are very powerful and dangerous.

The prosecutor said Hocog was not authorized by the Drug Enforcement Administration to dispense schedule 2 and 3 narcotics. He said they will show evidence that the doctor dispensed scheduled 2 narcotics.

Attorneys Michael Dotts and

Ramon Quichocho are defending Hocog.

In his opening arguments, Dotts said the evidence would show that the doctor had encountered a problem before, resulting in the restrictions on his medical license.

Dotts said that in 2004 Hocog agreed to the restrictions on his license. Dotts said the 12-month restriction prohibited Hocog from prescribing a controlled substance to outpatients.

The lawyer said the doctor, however, is allowed to issue such prescriptions as long as he works with the Commonwealth Health Center and obtains the co-signature of another doctor.

Dotts said Hocog's restriction was extended to December 2006. Dotts said that in 2007 Hocog knew he was not restricted, yet he still followed the restrictions in 2007.

"During September to November 2007 the evidence will show he did nothing," the lawyer said.

Dotts said the evidence would show his client had complied with the restrictions, but that the U.S. government simply "jumped ahead."

"He acted in good faith without intent of violating federal law," Dotts pointed out.

After the opening arguments, the prosecution called their first witness—DEA Los Angeles diversion program manager Dr. Michael James Louis.

Louis is responsible for overseeing doctors, including those in the CNMI.

When *Saipan Tribune* left the courtroom, Louis was still explaining his job and the different scheduled narcotics.

Hocog was charged with one count of distribution of oxycodone hydrochloride and one count of distribution of meperidine.

O'Malley stated in the indictment that beginning on Sept. 4, 2007 and continuing until Nov. 30, 2007, the defendant, a medical doctor, dispensed oxycodone hydrochloride, a controlled substance.

O'Malley said the doctor distributed the controlled substance despite a restriction on his DEA controlled substance registration certificate and his CNMI license to practice medicine.

The prosecutor said that on Sept. 4, 2007 until Nov. 26, 2007, Hocog distributed a controlled substance, meperidine (commonly known as demerol).

O'Malley said the doctor dispensed the meperidine despite a restriction on his DEA controlled substance registration certificate and his CNMI license to practice medicine.

## KRNM returns to the CNMI's airwaves

The CNMI's only public radio station came back on the air Friday afternoon after three weeks of technical problems.

KRNM station manager Carl Pogue said during broadcast yesterday that the station's transmitter is still working at diminished power, but has enough strength to allow the station to resume broadcast.

The 1,000-watt transmitter, located at Northern Marianas College, is currently running at 400 watts. The situation will continue until an additional part can be ordered, shipped, and

installed. But Pogue said that, except for a weaker signal in the Garapan-Puerto Rico area, the transmission snag is not seen to be a big issue for many listeners.

KRNM is also having an unrelated issue with its Internet streaming decoder, Pogue said. The glitch is preventing the station from receiving the bulk of its NPR and BBC programming. Some of the affected programs are *NPR's Morning Edition*, *All Things Considered*, and BBC news programs. Meantime, the station is airing more Radio Australia

and alternative programs.

Pogue assured listeners that the station will return to regular format once the streaming problem has been fixed.

KRNM was having financial troubles and on the verge of shutting down when the technical difficulties knocked it off the air in mid June, causing some listeners to think the station had gone permanently.

Northern Marianas College has said it will no longer fund the station. Private donations are helping keep the station on the air. (*Agnes E. Donato*)



### NEW ARRIVALS

Passengers of the Northwest Airlines flight from Tokyo's Narita Airport line up at the immigration counter upon arrival at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport early Wednesday morning.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



### Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

#### DEPARTMENT OF LABOR DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING

Second Floor Afetna Square Building, San Antonio, P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950  
Telephone no. (670) 236-0956/0957 Facsimile no. (670) 236-0995

### NOTICE OF HEARINGS PENDING LABOR CASES

Tuesday, July 8, 2008 first notice

Monday, July 14, 2008 second notice

Notice is hereby given to the persons listed below to appear at the Hearing Office, Department of Labor, Second Floor, Afetna Square Building, San Antonio, on the date and at the time listed below. Your claims will be heard at that time or continued to a date certain. Please bring any documentation necessary to the resolution of your claims or defenses to claims against you. In particular, if you have wage claims or if wage claims are made against you, please bring supporting documentation. If you fail to appear, or fail to bring documentation, your claims or defenses may be dismissed, and an administrative order may be entered against you.

If your case has been resolved through a settlement, or you are a claimant and wish to withdraw your claims, please call Jeffrey Camacho, Chief, Enforcement Section, 236-0960, or come to the Enforcement Office at the Department of Labor.

#### THIS NOTICE IS POSTED AT THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.

Case No.	Employee	Employer	Hearing Date	Time
LC 04-702	Berganio, Elizabeth A.	Song Sim Pak	July 18, 2008	12:00 p.m.
LC 02-288	Bulatao, Rommel M.	Nanyo Co. Ltd	July 18, 2008	11:00 a.m.
LC 02-043	Cabrera, Ma. Cristina B.	Lisa P. Sablan dba Sablan's Topline Cleaning Agency	July 18, 2008	1:00 a.m.
LC 99-349	Camo, Victoria S.	Tellei, Estephan	July 18, 2008	12:00 p.m.
LC 04-641	Chen, Juan	Concorde Garment MFG Corp.	July 18, 2008	11:00 a.m.
LC 01-025	Li, Xiaofen	Lin Hsia Ling H	July 18, 2008	11:00 a.m.
LC 04-113	Loterte, Rolando S.	Emperor Ent. Corp.	July 18, 2008	11:00 a.m.
LC 04-641	Luo, Guozhen	Concorde Garment MFG Corp.	July 18, 2008	11:00 a.m.
LC 02-274	Not on file	Not on file	July 18, 2008	11:00 a.m.
LC 04-702	Rivada, Gloria M.	Song Sim Pak	July 18, 2008	12:00 p.m.
LC 02-071	Rokibul, Md	Philpan Inter. Corp.	July 18, 2008	12:00 p.m.
LC 00-210 (R)	Taher, Abu	Shi Yang Corp.	July 18, 2008	12:00 p.m.
LC 04-778	Wang, Minghong	Sun Mei Corp.	July 18, 2008	12:00 p.m.
LC 04-641	Zhang, Xiaoling	Concorde Garment MFG Corp.	July 18, 2008	11:00 a.m.
LC 04-605	Zhou, Hailan	United Int'l Corp.	July 18, 2008	12:00 p.m.



### NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS COUNCIL FOR THE HUMANITIES

## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities (Council) is soliciting applications for the position of Executive Director. The Council is a private, non-profit corporation affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities. Its mission is to foster awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the humanities through support of educational programs that relate the humanities to the indigenous cultures and to the intellectual needs and interests of the people of the Commonwealth. The Council is governed by a 13-member Board of Directors that represents a broad cross section of the community.

The Executive Director is responsible for developing, implementing and evaluating a wide variety of humanities programming in consultation with the Council's board of directors. Other major duties include supervising a two person staff, administering an annual budget of approximately \$300,000 and coordinating with a wide variety of public and private organizations and the general public to realize the Council's goals and objectives. A detailed description of the Executive Director's duties is available at the Council's office in Kings Plaza in Dandan.

Applicants for this position must possess strong leadership, administrative, writing, advance computer and inter-personal skills, the ability to work effectively in a multi-cultural environment, the ability to prepare and review grant applications and annual budget, an in depth knowledge of the history and cultures of the Northern Mariana Islands, and a working knowledge of history of the Micronesian region. At a minimum applicants must possess an undergraduate degree (B.A. or B.S.) from an accredited postsecondary institution, although a Masters degree is preferred, and five years of experience administering federal program relating to the humanities. The starting salary ranges from \$42,000 to \$45,000 depending on qualifications and experience. The Executive Director serves at the pleasure of the Board of Directors.

Applicants are invited to submit their letter of intent, resume, and the names (with current contact information) of at least three references to Dr. Debra T. Cabrera, Chair, Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities, P.O. Box 506437, Saipan, MP 96950 (no faxes or e-mails, please). Complete application packages must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. on July 11, 2008 to be considered. The Council may choose to interview applicants before making a final selection. The Council is an equal opportunity employer.



# CA marks decade of Cairns-Guam service

**HAGÁTÑA, Guam**—In celebration of its tenth anniversary of service between Guam and Cairns, Australia, Continental Micronesia brought the islands to Down Under on July 6, 2008.

Thirteen representatives from Micronesia's national travel organizations, hoteliers, and tour organizations joined the Sales and Marketing team of Continental Micronesia to promote travel to the north Pacific oceanic islands. This is the third annual Continental Micronesia Roadshow.

Representatives from Guam,

Palau, Yap, and Pohnpei conducted workshops and tabletop presentations to Australia's travel trade and met with news media during the weeklong roadshow to Cairns, Townsville, and Brisbane.

"By directly meeting with the travel trade and the media, we strengthened travel demand to Micronesia and enhanced our existing relationship with Australia's travel agency community," said Continental Micronesia Asia and Micronesia Director for Sales and Marketing David Kendall.

The current schedule from Cairns to Guam operates on Mondays and Fridays. Flight time is approximately 4 hours and 25 minutes utilizing a new generation Boeing 737-800 aircraft. The aircraft seats up to 155 passengers in a two-class cabin, 14 in business and 141 in economy.

Continental Micronesia is headquartered in Guam and operates a Pacific hub from the A.B. Won Pat International Airport. For more company information, visit [www.continental.com](http://www.continental.com). (*Continental*)

## The 2008 Liberation Day raffle winners

By **JACQUELINE DELA CRUZ**  
jackie\_delaacruz89@yahoo.com  
JUNIOR REPORTER

Organizers of the 2008 Liberation Day have announced the winners in the raffle drawing that was held last Sunday night at the ground of the Liberation Day Carnival in Garapan across the Kristo Rai Church.

The special prize—a roundtrip ticket to the United States courtesy of the Northwest Airlines—was won by ticket number 627823.

The grand prize went to Oscar Angui, with ticket number 22437. Derrick Asao, with ticket number 24803, got the baby grand prize.

Other winners with their ticket numbers are:

- Theodora Lizama, #12008
- Winnie P. Taitano, #01512
- Danilo Garcia, #26413
- Elmer Brillo, #01855
- No name, #20790
- U2 Collection, #06978
- No name, #03054

- Pal Paras, #11014
- Samira Islam Saures, #09280

- Jaydine Borja & James Kiyu, #17451

- Ray V. Guerrero, #21457
- Vaughn Hofschneider, #22578

- Shu Qzng Blas, #10982
- Ria Encia, #05036
- U2 Collection, #06950
- Elizabeth M. Tudela, #19280

- Ruzel B. Agulto, #01447
- Lisa Villagomez, #00475
- No name, #18808
- Team Yamak, #04497
- Mystica Kaipat, #00899
- Sharlynn R. Asao, #24788
- Aldin Hockett, #00574
- Eliza Ann Dela Cruz, #12738

- Li Jun Romolor, #25507
- Mona, #19310
- Shanaia, #01959
- Lisa Villagomez, #23371
- R. Cody, #23708
- Xu Guo Rong, #14635

For more information, call Tina Pangelinan at the Mayor's Office at 234-6208. (*PR*)



### DOMATSURI

Members of the 2008 Domatsuri group are joined by Japanese and Russian guests during the Liberation Day Parade on July 4, 2008.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## DEQ sets cleanup brigade on Saturday

Some of the trash found at Old Man by the Sea last month.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



The Division of Environmental Quality will be mobilizing its cleanup brigade to pick up trash

at the Unai Dankulu Agingan Beach, better known as Coral Ocean Point.

If you would like to volunteer your time to clean and beautify the island, meet up with DEQ members this Saturday, July 12, at 8am.

DEQ's Reina Camacho said they expect many of the garbage to be picnic debris and some household garbage. Gloves, trash bags and refreshments will be provided during the cleanup.

Volunteers will clean until 10am, break for drinks and then continue the cleanup, if needed.

This month, outstanding brigade volunteers who participated in at least 10 monthly cleanups will receive a brigade cap and those who participated in at least three cleanups will receive a green brigade t-shirt, said Camacho.


"Let us work together for the health of our coral reefs and cleanliness of our beaches for everyone to enjoy," she added.

Volunteers removed 1,440 lbs of debris from Old Man by the Sea during the cleanup on June 7. Since 1996, DEQ's cleanup brigade has continued to maintain clean, healthy beaches.

For more information about volunteering, contact the DEQ office at 664-8500. (*Jacqueline Del Cruz*)



**Procurement And Supply  
CNMI Government**



**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

**RFP08-SOF-077**  
Submission: August 04, 2008 • Time: 4:30 p.m.


**"TO LEASE/DEVELOP/ASSIGN LA FIESTA PROPERTY"**

Copies of the proposal package may be obtained at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan during regular working hours.

For information regarding the technical description of the La Fiesta property, please contact the Secretary of Finance at (670) 664-1100 or write to P.O. Box 5234 CHR, Saipan MP 96950.

/s/ ELOY S. INOS  
Secretary of Finance

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN  
Director, P&S



D&Q Saipan is a leading wholesaler & distributor.  
We have an immediate opening for an

## ACCOUNTANT or ACCOUNTING CLERK

- Experience in Accounts Receivable a priority. Ideally in wholesale or related industry.
- Computer skills required with experience in ACCPAC / SBT or similar accounting system.
- The successful applicant will ideally be a degreed accountant but other suitable, experienced applicants will be considered..
- You should be result oriented and must be well organized, reliable, punctual, and a self-starter.
- The successful applicant *only* will be required to provide a police clearance.
- Local Hire or I.R. *only* please.
- Applications close July 15<sup>th</sup>.

Dickerson & Quinn / D&Q Saipan Co., Ltd. is an equal opportunity employer.  
We offer an excellent pay and benefits package.

For more information, please call 322 2706, or apply in person at  
CTS Building, Lower Base. Fax 322 2711.  
E-mail [admin@dqsaiipan.com](mailto:admin@dqsaiipan.com)

**ELEVENTH CNMI STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
PUBLIC NOTICE**

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Eleventh CNMI State Board of Education hereby gives notice that there will be a Regular Board Meeting on Friday, July 11, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. at BOE Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Retirement Fund Building, Saipan.

**AGENDA**

- I. Preliminary
  - a. Call to Order
  - b. Roll Call
  - c. Adoption of Agenda
  - d. Adoption of Minutes
- II. Public Comments<sup>1</sup>
- III. Reports
  - a. Chair
  - b. Board Committees
    - i. CIA
    - ii. CIP
    - iii. FPA
    - iv. LIA
    - v. School Reform
    - vi. Special Education & Early Childhood
    - vii. Private Schools
  - c. Acting Commissioner of Education
  - d. Non-Public School Representative
- IV. Old Business
  - a. Approval of NASBE Professional Development Funds
- V. New Business
  - a. Consolidated Grant Proposal for FY 2008
  - b. Revised FY 2009 PSS Proposed Budget
  - c. Audit Report
  - d. Review of BOE policies and regulations re non-appropriated funds by OPA
  - e. Contract, selection procedures and instruments for COE position
- VI. Executive Session<sup>2</sup>
  - a. Legal updates
    - i. Settlement Offer
    - ii. Updates from GBI/CIC/CDA case
    - iii. PL and PSS contribution to the NMI Retirement Fund
    - iv. U.S. Department of Labor Settlement Agreement
  - b. Personnel
  - c. Other matters
- VII. Miscellaneous Matters
  - a. Trip Reports
- VIII. Discussion of Agenda for next Board meeting
- IX. Adjournment

<sup>1</sup>Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.

<sup>2</sup>Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

Raphael DLG. Demapan  
Estelita D. Demapan  
P. O. Box 502365  
Saipan, MP 96950  
Telephone: (670) 235-3240

PRO SE

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT  
OF THE  
COMMONWEALTH OF THE  
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

In Re The Matter Of The	)
Petition To Appoint	) FCD GU
General Guardianship For:	) CIVIL ACTION
EVAN LYSACEK DAMASO DEMAPAN	) NO. 08-0360
Minor Child,	)
By:	) DECLARATION OF
RAPHAEL DLG. DEMAPAN	) PUBLICATION
and ESTELITA D. DEMAPAN,	) OF NOTICE
Petitioners.	)

We, Raphael DLG. Demapan and Estelita D. Demapan, Petitioners herein, hereby declare that we caused the Notice of Hearing in the above-entitled matter to be published in the Saipan Tribune on July 8th, 2008, as shown as "Exhibit 1, attached herein.

Dated this 8th day of July, 2008.

/s/ RAPHAEL DLG. DEMAPAN  
/s/ ESTELITA D. DEMAPAN



# Tinian voters press for Inos' confirmation

A petition is currently being circulated on Tinian calling for the Senate Committee on Governmental Appointments to confirm Gov. Benigno R.

Fitial's appointment of lawyer Perry Inos to the Superior Court bench, a statement issued yesterday said.

The action, according to the

statement, was initiated by a Tinian businessman, who says he is supporting Inos' appointment due to the need for experienced jurists in the CNMI courts. The

statement did not identify the businessman.

"Inos is a well-know CNMI attorney who is exceptionally suited for the position, his supporters say," as he has had his own law practice since 1997 and has served as assistant attorney general for the Office of the Attorney General's Criminal Division and had been an associate attorney in the law offices of Supreme Court Justice John A. Manglona, the statement said.

In only three days, the petition has already garnered over one hundred signatures, the statement said.

Before this, a Saipan lawmaker urged the Senate to confirm Inos' appointment to the CNMI Superior Court.

Rep. David Apatang had said Inos is "an excellent choice and a great addition to the Commonwealth's bench."

He said the 13 years Inos has spent practicing law in the Commonwealth makes him qualified for the post of Superior Court judge. Inos initially worked as a government prosecutor and later, entered into private practice as a defense attorney.

Inos has been in private practice since 1997. Before that,

he worked as a teacher at Rota High School, student coordinator at the Rota campus of the Northern Marianas College.

Inos received his high school diploma from Rota High School in 1983 and graduated with a bachelor's degree, major in business management, from the University of Guam in 1987. He attended the University of New Mexico School of Law and received his law degree in 1994.

He is married to Debra Inos and they have three children. He is the son of Rota Mayor Joseph S. Inos and nephew of Finance Secretary Eloy S. Inos. (PR)

## CAMPUS BULLETIN

### NMC English Placement Test

The Northern Marianas College will be conducting an English placement test on the following days:

- Aug. 6 1pm-4pm Room D-1
- Aug. 7 5pm-8pm Room D-1
- Aug. 11 5pm-8pm Room D-1
- Aug. 20 5pm-8pm Room D-1
- Aug. 21 8am-11am Room D-1

There will be no admittance to the testing room after the starting time.

Those who wish to take the test must bring a valid photo ID (driver's license, passport or school ID) and pencils.

There is a \$25 fee for the English Placement Test that must be paid in advance at NMC's Finance Office (Monday-Friday, 9am - 4pm). Students will not be admitted to the testing room without proof of payment (a receipt for either the placement test fee or the NMC application fee). Payment for the application fee will cover the English placement test fee.

If you have any questions, call Mark Haag at the Languages & Humanities Dept. at (670) 234-5498 ext. 1733 or 1212. (PR)

### New Call-A-Ride schedule

The CNMI Association of Families with Disabilities issued a notice yesterday to inform all Call-a-Ride customers of the revised Call-A-Ride bus schedule:

- Monday to Friday 6am to 9pm
  - Saturday 8am to 5pm
  - Sunday OFF
- Bus fee \$3 one way, \$6 round trip

Contact Wildrow Cabrera or Steve Camacho at cell no. 483-9013/9012.

The management and operation of the Saipan Call-A-Ride Accessible Transportation Service program are currently provided by the CNMI Association of Families with Disabilities under an annual contract agreement. (PR)

### Free Aquaculture Workshop

Register now for the free "Opportunities in Aquaculture" Workshop sponsored by the Northern Marianas College CREES. The two-day workshop will introduce

economic opportunities that have not been tapped or fully developed in the CNMI. Topics will include global shrimp farming opportunities, aquaculture biosecurity, artificial propagation of marine finfish, culturing coral reef species, import and export requirements, tips on the permitting process, and more.

The workshop will be held from 8am to 4pm on July 10 and 11 at the Saipan World Resort. Because seats are limited, those interested in attending are encouraged to register as soon as possible by calling NMC CREES at 234-5498 Ext 1707. (PR)

### State of the Judiciary Address on Friday

The Legislature will be conducting a joint session this Friday for the State of the Judiciary Address. Lawmakers of both the Senate and the House of Representatives will receive the Judiciary's status report, to be delivered by CNMI Supreme Court Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan.

The State of the Judiciary Address will be held July 11, at 10am, in the chamber of the House of Representatives at the Honorable Jesus P. Mañas Memorial Building on Capital Hill.

In a notice issued over the weekend, House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios and Senate President Pete P. Reyes are inviting the public to this occasion. (PR)

### Red Cross Health and Safety Training

The American Red Cross announces the following health and safety training for the month July 2008:

- Adult CPR – July 26, 2008, Saturday, from 8am to 12pm
- First Aid – July 26, 2008, Saturday, from 12pm to 5pm
- Infant & Child CPR – August 9, 2008, Saturday, from 8am to 1pm.

The training fee for Adult CPR and First Aid is \$30.00 per person/per course and the training fee for the Infant & Child CPR is \$35.00 per person. A participant's booklet is required. Participant's booklet is \$5.00 each and is good for all three courses.

For more information, call the NMI Chapter Office at 234-3459. (PR)

### Free computer classes at library

The Joeten Kiyu Public Library is now conducting free basic

computer and Internet classes for all students until Aug. 30, 2008.

Class size is limited, so interested students may contact us at 235-7329 or 235-7322 for more information. (PR)

### Military ID Card visit

This is to inform all active duty military, reservists, veterans and their dependents that the ID Card personnel from Hawaii will be on island from July 14 to 19, 2008. They will be issuing new and renewing military cards. Hours of operations are as follows:

- Monday - Friday from 8:30am to 7pm
- Saturday from 8:30am to 12pm
- Please adhere to the following schedules:
- Monday – Wednesday will be strictly for all E Company dependents.
- Thursday thru Saturday is open to other military personnel.

For more information, contact the Reserve Center at 322-6680. (PR)

### WSR Elementary School notice

All parents and guardians are being informed that the William S. Reyes Elementary School Office will be closed July 31-Aug. 8.

Student registration is still ongoing. If your child is not registered, come by the office to register you child/ren. Registration will close on Aug. 11. Registering your child early will ensure that his/her school entrance is not interrupted.

The required student uniforms for school year 2008-2009 are on sale at the office. If purchased by June 27, a set of five (top and bottom) is \$108. If purchased after June 27, the set will cost \$115. Parents are also welcome to buy the uniforms individually.

WSR notebooks and yearbooks are also on sale at the office for \$2 each.

For more information, call the office at 237-3542 or Mrs. Villagomez at 287-3542 or 287-3807, or email at villagomezl@pss.cnmi.mp. (PR)

### Tinian Jr. Sr. High School calendar

Summer 2008 School Information

- HONORS ENGLISH
- Start Date August 4, 2008
- End Date August 29, 2008

Registration forms are available at the front office. (PR)



### LIBERATION TRASH

Loads of trash are seen scattered along the stretch of Beach Road after the 62nd Liberation Day Parade Friday afternoon.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

## 3rd defendant in theft at AMP wants trial

The third defendant in the case of conspiracy to steal portions of the metal lighting units from the American Memorial Park wants to proceed with the trial in federal court.

Masaiohy Daikichi Sallem last Thursday signed a waiver of speedy trial in the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Sallem stated that he wishes to waive his right to a speedy trial. He was with court-appointed counsel Steven Pixley.

Chief Judge Alex R. Mun-

son granted Sallem's request and set the jury trial for Oct. 14, 2008 at 9am.

Munson ordered that the defendant be allowed to remain at liberty under all the terms and conditions the court had previously set.

Sallem's co-defendants, Dominic D. Chipwelong and James Ochcha, had already signed plea agreements with the U.S. government and pleaded guilty.

Sallem, Chipwelong, and

Ochcha, all Chuukese, were indicted on charges of conspiring to sell government property and theft of government property.

In addition, Ochcha was charged with destruction of a veterans memorial.

The three were accused of engaging in a conspiracy to steal some metal lighting units from the American Memorial Park and selling them to a recycling center in November 2007. (Ferdie de la Torre)



## Commonwealth Development Authority REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS



RFP NO.: 2008-CDA-05-RFP

Closing Date: Thursday, July 31, 2008 • Time: 10:00 a.m.

## "INSURANCE FOR CDA'S PROPERTIES"

Copies of the specifications may be obtained at the Commonwealth Development Authority Office, 1st Floor, Wakin's Bldg., Gualo Rai, Saipan, during regular working hours or by facsimile request to 235-7147.

Preference is available to US Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the proposal if preference is claimed.

/s/ OSCAR C. CAMACHO  
Acting CEO

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN  
Director, P&S



# Tonga cuts duties on 800 imports

**NUKU'ALOFA, Tonga** (Tonga Broadcasting Commission/PIR)—Government has removed customs duty from a number of imported goods and services in a bid to further assist the public.

According to Minister for Finance Afu'alo Matoto, these include removal of duties on oil for shipping vessels and commercial airlines in order to make traveling more affordable for the public.

Afu'alo revealed that gov-

ernment has removed duties on 800 imported items and so these items will be imported duty-free.

Some goods had been levied with customs duty previously but were not taxed, and there were some items that were not taxed but were to be taxed after the tax reforms came into effect, and now government is working to remove customs duty on these items as well.

Duty-free goods will now include farming equipment, tools

and fertilizer and also include fishing paraphernalia.

The Hon. Minister of Finance also clarified that the issuing of development licenses has ceased and this will be handled via the customs duty and excise Acts and Income Tax Act which came into effect in this financial year under the Tax Reforms Act.

Afu'alo also revealed that with regards to Income Tax, the government had removed the process of claiming; say-

ing that beginning this financial year people will not be able to make anymore claims as they will not be required to file personal tax returns.

He said there were also other areas enclosed in the Tax laws that were not enforced before but would be now, which includes those that have benefits as part of their jobs for e.g. when they are given a company vehicle, they would have to declare this as part of their income and they will be taxed accordingly.

Afu'alo said what was happening now was that government was freeing up a lot of areas beginning this month in line with the financial year including freeing those from the salary range between 2500-7400 pa'anga [US\$1225-3626] from being taxed, with the income tax now being levied only at 2 levels—10 percent for those earning between 7401 - 30,000 pa'anga and 20 percent for those earning 30,001 and upwards.

The Revenue Services department is currently holding dialogues with businesses, churches and members of the public with regards to clarifications regarding the new tax laws.

## Former Nauru president Harris dies

**WELLINGTON, New Zealand** (RNZI/PIR)—A former president of Nauru, Rene Harris, who helped broker the controversial "Pacific Solution" to deal with asylum seekers bound for Australia, has died at the age of 61.

The Nauru government said Harris, the country's longest-serving politician, suffered a

heart attack on Friday afternoon and passed away over the weekend.

A state funeral was held within hours of his death.

The Foreign Minister, Kieren Keke, said although Harris was always unorthodox and controversial, there was no denying Nauru had lost one of its most memo-

orable orators and toughest politicians.

Harris served continuously in the 18-member Nauru parliament for 31 years, until he lost his seat in general elections last April.

His political career included four years as president at various times between 1999 and 2004.



In this photo released by Dentsu Inc., Japanese sailor Kenichi Horie waves on the deck of the Suntory Mermaid II Friday afternoon, July 4, 2008, about 37 kilometers (23 miles) off Hinomisaki, Wakayama prefecture (state), southern Japan. The 69-year-old mariner, who has sailed nonstop around the world and crossed the Pacific in a solar-powered boat, completed his nearly four-month voyage from Hawaii on Friday night aboard the 3-ton boat made of recycled aluminum and relies on the energy of waves to move two fins at its bow and propel it forward.

## Japanese sails solo across the Pacific in wave-powered boat

By SHINO YUASA  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

**TOKYO (AP)**—Japanese adventurer Kenichi Horie took more than three months to sail from Hawaii to Japan in a boat powered by the energy of ocean waves, but says he was blessed with good weather and tasty fish.

"The sea was so calm, and the weather was so great throughout my journey. That's why it took me so long," he said Saturday.

The 4,800-mile (7,800-kilometer) voyage, which began in Honolulu in March, ended Friday when his 3-ton yacht docked in Wakayama in western Japan.

The trip—which Horie claims was the world's longest solo voyage in a wave-powered

boat—is just the latest journey using green technology for the 69-year-old sailor.

In 1992, Horie pedaled a boat from Hawaii to Okinawa in southern Japan. In 1996, he sailed nearly 10,000 miles (16,090 kilometers) from Ecuador to Tokyo aboard a solar-powered boat made from recycled aluminum beer cans.

Horie's most recent trip would have taken just 10 days in a regular diesel-powered boat. But he said he is raising awareness about ecology, although his endeavors may take a bit longer.

His boat, which relies on wave energy to move two fins at its bow and propel it forward, sailed at an average speed of 1.5 knots—slower than humans walk.

"I've been thinking about rid-

ing a wave-powered boat for 30 years, and finally my dream came true. The journey was so fun, and it was easy," he said in a telephone interview from his yacht in Osaka Bay in western Japan.

Horie ate mostly rice and curry that he brought along on the boat, but sometimes ate squid and flying fish that he caught.

"They tasted great," he said.

The 31-foot (9.5-meter) boat, the Suntory Mermaid II, was designed to right itself if it capsized and was equipped with an engine and a sail for emergencies. But they were never needed because Horie didn't encounter a single storm.

Equipment on the boat, made of recycled aluminum, was all solar-powered, including navigation radios, microwave and even Horie's razor.

"All my equipment worked perfectly," he said.

## Fiji water bottlers stop production

**SUVA, Fiji** (Fijilive/PIR)—Ten bottlers of Fiji-manufactured artesian water have collectively agreed to cease production immediately until the "extraordinary attack" against the bottled water industry is resolved.

In a joint statement following its meeting in Suva this afternoon, the bottled water-exporting companies said the decision to impose an increased duty on this export commodity would prove unprofitable for the industry.

The statement was signed by Warwick Pleass of Pleass Beverage in Walu Bay, Suva; David Roth of Fiji Water; Anup Patel of Flour Mills of Fiji's VTY; Steve Johnson of Mr Pure; Jai Dayal of Island Chill; Mohammed Altaf of Aqua Pacific; Mohammed Nafiz of Diamond Aqua; Jilyin Wong of Tapoos Beverage; Sam Ahmed of Fresh Spring Limited; and Ritesh Naidu of Mineral Waters of Fiji.

Fiji's Cabinet yesterday approved to impose a 20 cents/litre export duty on all Fiji's mineral water exports and a 20 cents/litre excise duty on mineral water sold for domestic consumption.

Interim Minister for Finance, National Planning, Sugar Industry and Public Utilities (Water & Energy) submitted to Cabinet that the major reason for the new duties was to stimulate conservation of Fiji's scarce natural resources.

## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 08, 1999

### Faisao sets compromise on street naming dispute

Stung by ongoing debate on the street naming project by the Office of the Saipan Mayor, Rep. Melvin Faisao vowed yesterday to work toward a compromise to bridge opposing views on condition that the proposal from the Carolinian community must first be given a "fair" deal. He expressed hope for the immediate resolution to the differences which, according to legislators, have threatened to drag further the 10-year project and divide the local community.

### Clarify vague provisions of Fair Wage Act - Chamber

When the cash equivalent or benefit compensation is paid to a resident worker, such additional benefit should not be considered a part of the "regular rate" and be used as basis in calculating overtime pay. This was the recommendation presented by the Saipan Chamber of Commerce to House Speaker Diego T. Benavente ahead of plans by the Legislature to take up the new Resident Workers Fair Compensation Act.

### CRM to conduct study of CNMI's marine life

An Ecosystem Management Plan for Saipan Lagoon will be conducted to determine the different types of marine life and recommend the necessary conservation measures. Coastal Resources Management Acting Director Martin Castro yesterday said the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer will help conduct the study which has been given federal funding. It is the first time that an Ecosystem Study will be undertaken by CRM.

July 08, 2002

### Burglars break into Legislature

Burglars with somewhat unorthodox motives broke into the Legislature building over the weekend, taking off not so much with valuables but a laptop, a computer battery and some important documents. The missing items were mostly from the office of Senate Minority Leader Pete P. Reyes but an inspection showed that offices of at least six other offices in the building had door handles that bore marks of attempts at being forced open.

### Chata'an knocks Rota down

Typhoon Chata'an unleashed its fury Friday when it passed by the Northern Marianas, leaving Rota heavily devastated—fallen debris obstructed the roads, most of the crops were destroyed, and the island was in total blackout. On Saipan, the strong winds and heavy rains also prompted the evacuation of more than 200 individuals in different evacuation centers designated by the Emergency Management Office.

### Local politics influencing Verizon sale

The petitions opposing the transfer of Verizon Pacifica to Pacific Telecom Inc. were procedurally defective in that some of the petitions imply that they represent official positions, when in fact they do not. At the same time, the petitions fail to establish a prima facie case that the proposed transfer would not serve the public interest.

July 08, 2003

### NMI to lift SARS ban in two weeks

Public Health Secretary James Hofschneider reportedly advised the Babauta administration to lift the travel restriction for CNMI-bound visitors from China and Taiwan by July 11 and 19, respectively. Press Secretary Peter A. Callaghan said Hofschneider made the recommendation to Gov. Juan N. Babauta and Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente during a Cabinet meeting yesterday. Callaghan said the administration would most likely follow Hofschneider's recommendation.

### CUC board OKs power privatization

Majority of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. Board of Directors approved the proposed privatization of CUC's power plants in Lower Base. With three "yes" votes, one "no," and one abstention, the board moved ahead Thursday with the issuance of a Request for Proposal for the privatization of Power Plant 2. The project also includes the construction of the CUC's administration building. The affirmative votes came from board chair Herman P. Sablan, vice chairman Frank Guerrero, and treasurer Laura Manglona.



# Island Snapshots



## ARMY COVENANT

The signed Army Community Covenant is displayed while CNMI U.S. army reservists gather on the stage shortly after the signing ceremony at the American Memorial Park amphitheater Saturday morning.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Gov. Benigno R. Fitial engages in small talk with the chief of staff of the U.S. Pacific Command in Hawaii, Maj. Gen. Stephen Tom during the signing of the Army Community Covenant at the American Memorial Park amphitheater Saturday morning.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



## MISS LIBERATION QUEEN

2008 Liberation Day Queen Kaylynn Angelynn L. Sablan, 16, receives her crown from Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela during the 2008 Liberation Day Queen Coronation night at the Garapan Fishing Base festival ground Wednesday.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

## FOURTH OF JULY

Patriotic displays of the American flag were on full display during the Liberation Day parade on July 4, 2008, at the Garapan Fishing Base. At rear are crowds of parade spectators.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Rear Adm. William French, commander of the U.S. Forces Marianas delivers his remarks during the signing of the Army Community Covenant at the American Memorial Park amphitheater Saturday morning.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



## DEMOCRATIC MEETING

Former Sen. David M. Cing converses with fellow Democrats during the NMI Democratic Party gathering at the Kagman Community Center Wednesday.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



## R&B DANCE GROUP

Members of the R&B dance group entertain the crowd during the 2008 Liberation Day Queen Coronation night at the Garapan Fishing Base festival ground Wednesday.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



## WELCOME TO SAIPAN

Passengers from the Northwest Airlines flight from Tokyo's Narita Airport sign a form upon arrival at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport early Wednesday morning.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER  
Volume XVIII, Issue No. 190Published daily at 2/F CIC Centre,  
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI  
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950Lynn A. Knight PUBLISHER  
Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR  
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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

## EDITORIAL

### Unimpaired rights

The Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA), passed in 1990, was supposed to level the playing field for the disabled. It ended up helping some more than others. If you had an incurable disease, such as epilepsy, that affected your everyday actions but could be treated with medication, you were not disabled, the Supreme Court determined, and you did not deserve the accompanying rights. That soon may change, thanks to a remarkably cooperative effort by businesses and advocates of protections for the disabled. The House recently voted overwhelmingly to expand those protections, and the Senate is expected to follow suit. Although President Bush has expressed concerns that excess litigation may ensue, he is unlikely to veto the bill, nor should he.

The ADA's ambiguous language—a disability is an “impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities”—shackled many of the protections offered by the law and saddled the Supreme Court with a no-win choice: either limit the definition of “substantially limits” and exclude people with serious impediments, or expand the definition and provide protections for those with minor impairments whom Congress didn't intend to protect. The court has consistently chosen the former definition. The revision of the ADA should ease this dilemma.

What changed? Last year, a majority of the House supported a version of the Americans With Disabilities Restoration Act that offered more generous protections than the original one; this convinced businesses that it was in their interest to negotiate with disability groups. The compromise, which both sides find amenable, instructs the courts to broadly interpret the definition of disability but not to include every impairment under the definition. Someone with an “actual or perceived impairment” will also be able to seek damages on the basis of that impairment. For example, an applicant for airline pilot can no longer be discriminated against on the basis of eyesight, as long as he or she has corrective eyewear. Most significantly, the Restoration Act defines “substantially limits” as anything that “materially restricts” a major life activity, a distinction that will give the disabled more opportunities to seek protection without putting an undue burden on employers

(c) 2008, The Washington Post



## Package deal

### Snail Mail

Something happens to mail on Saipan. Much of the time it works well, considering we all live thousands of miles from the nearest sizable hub and even more thousands away from the U.S. mainland, our mail manages to get here most of the time. True, a Priority Mail envelope takes a week or 10 days or two weeks to get here, but it does get here, most of the time. But not all the time.

Everyone I have talked to about the “disappearing” mail seems to have experienced it. In casual conversation it has come up many times. That tells me it is a significant percentage of loss, one worth talking about. After you read this, start asking around. I'm betting you will find most everyone you talk to about it has either sent mail that did not arrive or has waited to receive mail that never got here, multiple times.

I have noticed that a package sent from the States to be received here has a much greater chance of being “lost” than one being sent the other way. I'm not sure why that would be, but it is noteworthy. I have noticed that a package sent “insured” for any amount has a far greater chance of being received than one that is not. Insurance provides not just a financial buffer against possible loss but also a mechanism for tracking. Perhaps the tracking capability is what causes the successful delivery ratio to rise.

Missing mail is not just an inconvenience; it is a crime...and a federal crime at that. Mail that goes missing is almost unheard of in the U.S., maybe that is because the penalties for stealing it are so severe. A recent case in North Carolina turned out to be an inside job where a USPS employee was stealing mail that looked like greeting cards. She would keep any cash, then destroy all the checks and the cards themselves. She kept quiet about it but still got caught because of internal security systems in place. Those systems don't seem to be working too well on the route that gets mail out here.

The above is a rare event stateside; an inside job doesn't happen all that often. Mail is sometimes stolen from corner pick up boxes (which we don't have here) or from exposed multiple outside mail delivery boxes near apartments or office buildings (which we also don't have). Those mail thieves are usually caught and do severe prison time. We had a case a while back where someone broke in and stole mail from the Capital Hill post office branch and was caught fairly quickly.

I think it is more than distance, more than coincidence, more than a logistically complex path of mail delivery. I think there is a security breach somewhere up the line and that someone inside USPS internal affairs needs to take a hard look and find the cause of Saipan's “Missing Mail.” Since it travels via commercial air carrier, maybe that is the source of the leaking mailbags.

Missing or not, we should count our blessings about having ac-

## Sour Grapes

By BRUCE BATEMAN

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Bruce A. Bateman writes *Sour Grapes* when the moon is full and the mood strikes. Stay tuned for each exciting episode. “Yes, he is opinionated.” Email: [bbateman@pticom.com](mailto:bbateman@pticom.com); Blog: <http://saipanuvian.blogspot.com/>



cess to one of the best, most efficient and even with all the increases, one of the cheapest forms of mail and package delivery on the planet. I is a pretty darned good deal to send a letter from here to Omaha or Boston, for the same price it takes to send it to Chalan Kanoa or Guam. I would just like it to arrive more often.

■■■

### Own-lee fie dolla

I see in the news where ex-attorney general Pam Brown is ringing in with her negative opinion about whether or not our government should sue the U.S. government to get the federal court's opinion about the legality of interference with our local labor laws.

Is this the same Pam Brown who has remained conspicuously absent from public scrutiny since her foray into paid “philanthropy” a couple of years back? Pam's “last great hurrah” as attorney general was a regulation change snuck into the *Commonwealth Register* public record under a phony cover name so it would hopefully not be discovered.

Her scheme to kidnap Vietnamese hookers, bring them to Saipan and “rehabilitate” them for fun and profit was a low point in CNMI history and rightfully drew mass public criticism when Ruth Tighe (perhaps the only person who actually reads the *Register*) exposed the sordid affair. Ms. Brown didn't even show up at the “hookers for hire” public meeting, she was so embarrassed at being caught.

Right...hers is an opinion I sure want to give a lot of credence to. Not.

■■■

### Ace of Spades

On a more important note, the legal question posed above is an interesting one. It is a question I would like to see answered, and one that many other residents and business owners and a good number of attorneys and scholars in the CNMI would like to have answered. Does the U.S. Constitution trump the CNMI Covenant when the only reason the U.S. Constitution has any sway here at all is through the enabling provisions inside the Covenant itself?

The answer to the question may well determine the fate of “local

See **PACKAGE** on Next Page



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

# Our educational community, faith, and risk

*"The strength of the United States is not the gold at Fort Knox or the weapons of mass destruction that we have, but the sum total of the education and the character of our people."*

—Claiborne Pell (1918 - )

I wanted to express my profound belief that in the CNMI we have an incredible amount of talent in our educational community. I have never been witness to an educational environment where so many people are moving forward with their dreams and goals of becoming better educators. The amount of teachers and administrators in our educational community that are pursuing their higher education degrees both at the masters level and doctoral level are astounding for such a small community to say the least. This single act, this personal goal of the individual to seek out the education and information in their profession, is perhaps the strongest message of "faith" that can be shown in our educational community.

I will be the first to admit that indeed there are challenges, and indeed there will be more as the new school year comes upon us with power outages, and ever rising fuel costs. However, let's not stare into the darkness of despair but into the light of our profession, the smiles of our children, the achievement in our schools. The most recent SAT10 data once again shows that we as a system are making significant leaps in education. This doesn't happen by chance. It happens with dedicated minds leading a concerted effort toward the same goal. United in faith, and by stepping up and taking risks.

I cannot help but feel all the arguments in the world about money, taxes, politics, the environment are insignificant to the reality that we as human beings have a greater servant purpose, a greater moral calling to our race, to pass on what we know to all those we encounter, good, bad, disruptive or not, that we educate them, treat them dignity in our words, with compassion in our eyes and with unconditional love in our hearts. One day perhaps we will no longer see the textbooks on the desks, the erasers on the board, money will not be an overriding factor in education, it will be left to us, the educators, the parents, we the people, to educate all the children, lest we become nothing more than artifacts of educational existence. Profound as spoken words may be it is my wish that everyone in our community know that truly your faith in the education of the child is what will bring light and promise to the seemingly dark days ahead. New paradigms in education will arise and will be embraced by the faithful.

Indeed as our community is gifted with the character and virtues of all those who would want for the child to be free from harm and embraced with no other feeling than safety and security, it is our duty as the human race to give of ourselves all that shall encompass the raising of a child. Have we as mankind succumbed to the apathy of societies ills that we look past our children, even those whose

behavior sends a different message, the disruptive child, the failing child, ... a thorn perhaps, what of others that speak of the child as an orchid that needs special attention and care for it to blossom before its death, are they not one and the same.

Do we as an educational community feel that there is often too much to risk when we are challenged by the hierarchy of a system, it's management or boards. We must understand that in the current educational environment, things will continue to change and new ideas and energy will be brought forth for our children. We cannot look to the past and ask 'why', but more so, to look to the future and ask 'why not'. It is my hope that our educational community will not look to the past for it's answers but to embrace the future and take the risks needed to move forward into the light of success.

In today's school systems leadership there often lies an underlying culture of caution. It manifests itself into what many leaders would call their "duty to deny." A pre-determined component of their scope of work, a belief that somehow by making decisions without first denying the initial requests, they are taking too great a "risk." Thus, risking progress itself and ultimately, the potential for learning and growth at any level whether district or government.

There are inherent risks with every job we perform, every task we undertake. Whether it is the risk of an investment in a new reading program, the risk of an action in a pending lawsuit, or just simply a bad decision. The American educational system on the whole is seemingly locked into a liability mode of operation. Many school leaders and professionals are concerned with whether they will be sued or even terminated at the next turn. More attention is paid to the negative aspects of the job and its risks than a focus on teaching and learning by school leaders.

During my first year as an administrator, I remember writing down what type of administrator I wanted to be, a self reflection into my experiences with school leaders and their styles and even myself as a teacher leader. I read that paper today, some six years later, and I see that indeed I have tried to become what I envisioned. A leader who is cautious, but fair, and genuinely someone who is a risk taker. I knew then as I do now, that this type of approach, this "risk" taking, might very well find me on the chopping block of school leaders who have perhaps taken too great of a risk. This is where the "duty to deny" appears. As school leaders, nobody wants to fail, and certainly not wind up on the chopping block. We see the "duty to deny" at the district level in schools and in local government also. District leaders often do not want to assume the risk that comes with the termination of a school leader, and hence they lower their risk by transferring or allowing the school leader to resign, which perhaps does nothing more than move them over into another category of "risk."

And it's not just simply about taking risks, it's about taking risks of "major proportions," the ones that great things come of, these are

By **CRAIG H. GARRISON**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

*Craig H. Garrison is the acting Commissioner of Education overseeing the Public School System.*



the things we want as leaders. We must in all gods-speed-proceed-to wit our dreams and create change by embracing what it is that challenges us, to reflect wholly on our comforts, our complacency, and act on the vision and not sedate our minds and temper our thoughts. If we are to truly reform the schools of today, if we are to truly create a profound and significant paradigm shift in the way in which we and others think about our profession then we must take the risks of epic proportions and never look back upon defeat as an option. We must prepare for the good fight and make it happen. Risk involves empowerment, encouragement, embodiment of your mind, your body, your spirit, your faith, your love, you must live it, and you must love what you do. As much as the man who climbs Mount Everest with only steel for legs, you may stand alone in risk, but like the man you have a thousand unheard voices supporting you, voices that are with you, you cannot fail in risk. Risk gives you reason to live, it rests inside each one of us. These risks of epic proportions are to be witnessed by all. With their eyes they can see the connection between your leadership and the risk that you take, in this, there is learning, exponential growth connected in the common ideal that as a leader it is the risk that you have taken that has made the change for the good. Just as we do not dare ourselves to be afraid of change, so it should be that we are not afraid of risk. To take a risk is to be willing to make mistakes, to play the devil's advocate even when it is unpopular; taking the risk that challenges the problems even when there is no certainty in the solution, the risk that you will personally and professionally add to your growth and accomplishments is a risk we must consider undertaking.

Professor Carol Dweck at the Department of Psychology, Stanford University, in her article, "Self-theories: Their role in motivation, personality, and development." (2000), explains; "Quantum leaps in learning, solving problems, inventing new products, and discovering new phenomena 'require' risk taking. Risk taking within the learning environment requires a willingness to think deeply about a subject or problem, share that thinking with others to hear their perspectives, listen to their critiques, and then build on those experiences toward a solution or solutions." What Dweck and other writers like her describe is an approach that we must take regarding risk. A systematic way of tackling the problem of decision making. Whether that is during a WASC meeting in preparation for accreditation, or a simple school project. The greater the risk the greater amount of time we should spend listening and building on what the collective groups experiences may be.

Just as we who profess to be school leaders and the future school leaders of today, will take on the challenges of the new paradigms in education, we must take the risks of creating our own paradigm in the way we approach education. We must believe in our ability to share equally in the vision of the CNMI and move forward together with inspiration and commitment towards education. If we fail to act in this regard, we have all failed, and failed our children. I ask now only one question, what are you going to do about it?

# End is near, and Bush acts that way

George W. Bush has roughly 200 days remaining in office.

This is probably not new information, given the number of Bush countdown clocks and calendars in circulation throughout the country, if not the world.

The end is near, but there is still plenty of damage "The Decider" could do in his last six months. That said, I'm not as worried about this as I used to be.

Does anyone else have the sense that Bush is just mailing it in now?

Granted, it's harder to tell if a president is on cruise control than, say, a co-worker, because you are not privy to the telltale signs:

The calling in sick (of work).

The two-hour lunches (expensed).

The disengagement (whatever).

The naps (with the door open).

You could really see evidence of GWB's tune out before he left on his Excellent European Vacation earlier this month.

Asked about the \$4-a-gallon gas on his way out the door, Bush responded that the solution to the problem is to open up off-shore areas and the Arctic to drilling.

Of course, experts say that might be of some minimal benefit 20 years from now, but Bush didn't mention that. He never was a details guy.

It wasn't what Bush said—he's always been an Of the Oil, By the Oil, For the Oil kind of leader—but the offhanded way he said it, which had an almost "Now watch me hit this drive" tone to it.

Another indicator that Bush is just playing out the string is his vacation—sorry—travel schedule for his final year in office.

He has already been to the Middle East, Asia and Europe, and overall has eight trips scheduled, including the Summer Olympics in China.

I can't recall Bush's exact words when he was asked if maybe he should not attend the games given what was transpiring in Tibet, but

By **JIM SHEA**

(c) 2008, The Hartford Courant

*Shea is a columnist for The Courant.*



what registered was:

"Are you kidding me, I got great seats."

Of course, no one has ever accused Bush of being a White House workaholic. He usually takes bikes rides at lunch, quits early, and is in bed by 10 p.m. (His life could be more boring than mine.)

One of the things Bush has been very good at, which kind of ties in with his new embrace of foreign travel, is vacationing.

Sure, it can be argued that a president is never really on vacation, but in Bush's case you could almost argue that he is never really not on vacation.

According to Mark Knoller, a CBS White House reporter who keeps meticulous records, as of this past March, Bush has totaled 452 vacation days (about 1 1/3 years worth) during his seven-plus years as president.

This eclipses the previous mark set by Ronald Reagan of 436 days, and is one of those records, like Cal Ripken's 2,632 consecutive games, which may never be broken.

Rather than criticize Bush as he pursues his presidential "Bucket List" in the dying days of his tenure, perhaps we should be thankful he is not fully engaged.

Maybe the best course at this point is to just let sleeping presidents lie.

## PACKAGE

From Page 10

self-government" as promised in the Covenant and as promised to the people who voted to accept the help and assistance of the United States as they transitioned from a public ward to a free people. A promise was made to the world. Will it be kept?

■ ■ ■

**Quote of the week:** The right of voting for representatives is the primary right by which all other rights are protected. To take away this right is to reduce a man to slavery, for slavery consists in being subject to the will of another, and he that has not a vote in the election of representatives is in this case.

—Thomas Paine, patriot and philosopher (1737 - 1809)

**Put another way:** He whose representative does not have a vote has no representative. That person and that nation of persons without representation are slaves and colonists, not free men.






—Bruce A. Bateman, pundit and curmudgeon (1918 - )



Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

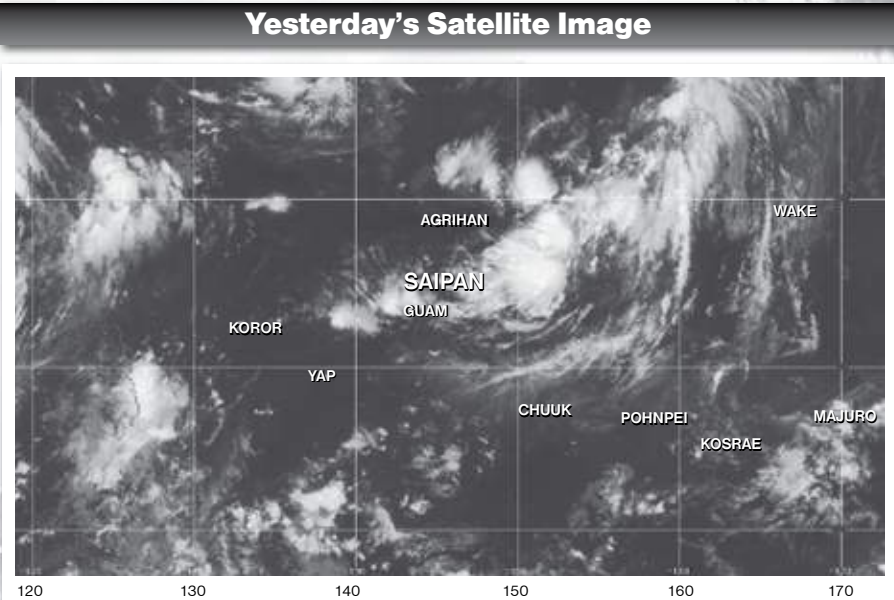
## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

Micronesia		
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼76
Palau	Cloudy	▲87 ▼77
Yap	Cloudy	▲87 ▼77
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	▲87 ▼76
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼72
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲88 ▼76
Majuro	Cloudy	▲85 ▼75

Around The Globe		
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲54 ▼44
Beijing	Rain	▲75 ▼68
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼77
Honolulu	Showers	▲84 ▼75
London	Showers	▲68 ▼56
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲86 ▼65
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼77
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲55 ▼45
Miami	Thundershowers	▲90 ▼80
New York	Thundershowers	▲90 ▼73
Osaka	Thundershowers	▲85 ▼72
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲72 ▼52
Pusan	Partly Sunny	▲84 ▼74
Rome	Sunny	▲85 ▼64
Salem	Sunny	▲93 ▼54
San Francisco	Sunny	▲88 ▼55
Seoul	Partly Sunny	▲90 ▼70
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	▲82 ▼70
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲91 ▼74

Tides		
Saipan Harbor		
6:03AM Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet
10:56AM Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
5:45PM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet



**PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, MONDAY, JULY 7, 2008**  
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A low to mid-level trough reaches southward from 25N165E through a large circulation centered west-northwest of Wake Island near 21N152E then continues westward through Agrihan near 19N146E to end at 15N130E. Widespread rain and isolated thunderstorms are found near the circulation and trough axis southeast of Minami Tori Shima and over the Northern Mariana Islands or within an area bounded by a line from 25N160E to 20N155E to 23N146E to 15N142E to 13N151E to 14N161E to 25N165E back to 25N160E. A surface trough extending northward from 5N132E to 11N134E is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms northwest of a line running from 5N132E to 9N135E. Koror lies on the extreme eastern edge of this area. Another surface trough arcs northward from 3N145E to 8N147E. Convergence near and east of the trough axis is causing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms well west of Chuuk between 5N and 8N from 145E to 149E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms east of Kosrae and over the southern Marshall Islands within 150 miles of a line from 5N164E to 5N173E and within 100 miles of a line from 7N173E to 7N178E.

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	5:52AM	6:52 PM	Today	10:33AM	10:53PM
Wednesday	5:53AM	6:52 PM	Wednesday	11:23AM	11:29 PM
Thursday	5:53AM	6:52 PM	Thursday	12:12PM	
Friday	5:53AM	6:52 PM	Friday	1:01PM	12:05PM
Saturday	5:54AM	6:52 PM	Saturday	1:51PM	12:43PM

## GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

**PICTURES**

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS  
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS  
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS  
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI  
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE  
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

■ CAMPUS BULLETIN  
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

**REQUIREMENTS**

**For pictures:**

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

**For announcements:**

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan  
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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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**SUBSCRIPTION** Published Monday to Sunday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$182. Off-island subscription rate is \$376 per year. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

**ADVERTISING** For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: [sales@saipantribune.com](mailto:sales@saipantribune.com)

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 4, 2008			
DEPARTURES		ARRIVALS	
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>		<b>Rota-Saipan</b>	
CO 9313	8:30am 9:05am 3,4,7	CO 9598	11:10am 11:45am 1,2,6
<b>Saipan-Guam</b>		<b>Guam-Saipan</b>	
CO9317	4:00am 4:50am Daily	CO 9316	2:30am 3:20am Daily
CO9597	8:30am 9:20am 1,2,5,6	CO9596	7:00am 7:50am Daily
CO9313	8:30am 10:00am 3,4,7 via Rota	CO9598	10:15am 11:45am 1,2,6 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm 1:20pm Daily	CO9600	10:45am 11:35am 3,4,5,7
CO9603	3:30pm 4:20pm Daily	CO9602	2:00pm 2:50pm Daily
CO9605	6:30pm 7:20pm Daily	CO9604	5:00pm 5:50pm Daily
CO9599	9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	CO9606	8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
<b>Saipan-Narita</b>		<b>Narita-Saipan</b>	
NW 099	5:00am 7:40am Daily	NW 076	10:15am 2:55pm Daily
NW 078	8:55am 2:00pm Daily	NW 077	6:25pm 1:30am+1 Daily
NW 075	4:45pm 7:25pm Daily	NW 100	8:45pm 1:25am+1 Daily
<b>Saipan-Osaka</b>		<b>Osaka-Saipan</b>	
NW 083	4:20pm 7:05pm Daily	NW 084	10:30am 3:05pm Daily
<b>Saipan-Nagoya</b>		<b>Nagoya-Saipan</b>	
NW 078	8:55am 11:35am Daily	NW 077	9:00pm 1:30am+1 Daily
<b>Saipan-Manila</b>		<b>Manila-Saipan</b>	
CO 895	4:45pm 6:35pm 6	CO 890	9:15am 2:55pm 6
CO 895	6:45pm 8:35pm 3	CO 890	11:45am 5:35pm 3
<b>Saipan-Seoul</b>		<b>Seoul-Saipan</b>	
OZ 604	2:20am 6:00am 1	OZ 605	9:00am 2:30pm 2,4,6,7
OZ 604	2:50am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7	OZ 603	7:40pm 1:10am+1 7
OZ 606	3:30pm 7:00pm 2,4,6,7	OZ 603	8:10pm 1:40am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6
<b>Saipan-Busan</b>		<b>Busan-Saipan</b>	
OZ 608	3:50am 7:20am 1,4,5,7	OZ 607	9:30pm 2:50am+1 3,4,6,7
<b>Guam-Manila</b>		<b>Manila-Guam</b>	
CO 891	6:00am 10:30am 3 via Yap and Koror	CO 894	11:20am 4:55pm 2,7
CO 893	6:30am 8:05am 6	CO 894	7:45pm 1:20am+1 6
CO 893	8:25am 10:00am 2,7	CO 892	9:45pm 6:30am+1 3 via Koror and Yap
CO 893	5:50pm 9:10pm 5 via Koror	CO 892	10:10pm 5:30am+1 5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm 8:40pm Daily	CO 934	10:55pm 4:30am+1 Daily
PR 111	6:00am 7:45am 1,2,4,6,7	PR 110	10:20pm 4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7
<b>Saipan-Guanzhou</b>		<b>Guanzhou-Saipan</b>	
CZ 3008	5:00am 8:00am 2,6	CZ 3007	8:00pm 4:00am+1 1,5
<b>Guam-Hongkong</b>		<b>Hongkong-Guam</b>	
CO 909	6:40pm 9:25pm 1,5	CO 910	10:35pm 5:15am+1 1,5
<b>Guam-Rota</b>		<b>Rota-Guam</b>	
CO 9598	10:15am 10:45am 1,2,6	CO 9313	9:30am 10:00am 3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern  
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily	FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily	FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily	FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily	<b>Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**</b>			
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily	FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily	FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily	FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily	FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
<b>Saipan-Tinian</b>				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily	FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily	FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily	FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily	FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily				
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily				



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)



## Letters to the Editor

# Advocating for CNMI guest workers

The Coalition of United Workers (NMI) was formed only in mid-April 2008. Before I became interim chair of the organization, I was just another observer who wrote letters to the media when there was an outrage that cried out for attention. What I knew back then about the challenges confronting guest workers was pitifully small—even though I have lived here since early 1997.

I was elected president of the Coalition in April and it has been a tough three months because there are so many things for us to do and so little time. The consolation is from knowing that each day will bring an opportunity to help which came along with the reward of knowledge and friendships. The support and assistance we get from people in the local and federal government, the Philippine Consulate and even some churches made the journey

smooth sailing.

So far, some of the issues we have tackled are:

1. Insolvent, undercapitalized bonding companies for which a meeting with Senate President Pete Reyes, Sen. Frica Pangelinan and the Department of Commerce was held to discuss how the guest workers with unpaid wages may be assisted.

2. Non-compliance by some employers with the required minimum wage.

3. Need to inform the guest workers of new Department of Labor regulations.

4. Food stamps

5. Questions about the federal stimulus checks

6. Need to educate guest workers about PL 15 – 108 (CNMI new Labor Law)

7. Educating guest workers about PL 110 – 229 (The Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008, better known as feder-

alization of CNMI Immigration System), for which a series of forums are being held

In addition, the Coalition has been asked to raise funds to help fellow Filipinos. We help make the right connections so people can get assistance. We have a reliable network of solid sources with sound information. Because of the large number of people coming to us with questions or seeking assistance, we decided to have a Coalition officer sit alternately at Winchell's Garapan and Winchell's Susupe starting at 8:30pm until sometimes 11pm to be available to just talk to people.

The worst case we have heard about and dealt with was the rape of a woman. We all know that the crime of rape happens with frightening reality, but hearing a victim describe it is shocking.

Two of the most memorable incidents involve illegal recruitment—one involving a Chinese woman and the other involving five Filipinos. When we met with the Chinese woman, she was in tears as we sipped tea while we were waiting to go into the Ombudsman's Office. Like many others on Saipan, she had

been betrayed by a "friend" who illegally recruited her and took her precious passport. Once her case was resolved, she called just before she went home and said, "Thank you, thank you" again and again.

Last week, three of five illegally recruited guest workers left for Manila. Earlier on, we met with one of them and he told us their sad story. We managed to find an organization willing to provide food supplies. Days later, they contacted us to ask how to find an attorney that will help them. We contacted Micronesian Legal Services and they gave us an appointment.

Unfortunately, we can only do so much. We hoped they would follow through the legal process—but on their own. They decided to just go back home. We learned that their decision was influenced by the tragic decision of the NMI Department of Labor to deny their request to renew their Temporary Work Authorization (TWA).

In the days to come, we expect to see a ballooning number of guest workers in need to protection and assistance. Our chief priority will be to find

ways where guest workers can get honest, clear answers to their questions. We will continue to offer solutions and bring issues that affect us to public attention.

Time and again, our plea has been for acceptance of the guest worker as a partner—not a threat. In one of the recent public hearings, someone used the word "co-exist". That can hap-

## Thank you

Please print this letter for those folks in Seattle, Washington. The CNMI Club, Mr. Sablan, Ms. Susana (Pakpak) Ms. Priscilla (Palagsi), Ms. Margaret Camacho (Boots) and others.

Also, I would like to mention that if you are traveling to the West Coast, and you encounter problems, just reach out for these people like David Quitugua from Rota, Gil Borja from Tinian and George F. Camacho from Saipan. I'm sure these people will be more than happy to help you. Just make sure you bring pugua and donni sali.

When you happen to be in the East Coast, like Washington D.C., then these are the folks that can assist you there: Mr. & Mrs. Donald and Priscilla Cabrera, Mr. & Mrs. Gerald and Vicky Calvo from Rota and Mr. & Mrs. Tony and

pen if we all contribute to the eventual recovery of the CNMI economy and the restoration of faith in the integrity of NMI government. We can all work to make the restoration process work effectively—here in the islands and in Washington.

United we stand!

**Irene N. Tantiado**  
*Capital Hill, Saipan*

Cynthia Mafnas from Saipan.

On behalf of the Chamorro out here in the Pacific, thank you for everything that you have done to the people of the Commonwealth. Both Seattle, Washington and Washington, D.C. are beautiful places to visit and it makes it even more beautiful when it has inhabitants like you folks.

I didn't realize how sweet the Chamorro hospitality is until I got to see you people and without any hesitation you invited me to your home. I know that we are changing fast but, this is one thing that will stick with us for a long, long time (*karidad and attension*).

Thank you for everything and may the good Lord bless all of you. Si Yuus Maase.

**David M. Cing**  
*Tinian*

# Playing the ukulele...as the NMI burns down

If there is anything that the Fitial administration is good at, it is at wasting precious time, resources, and money. Of course, this administration could say that they received federal money to explore geothermal power. Waste is waste, whether it is federal money or local government money. It reminds me of when I see all these V-8 super-charged SUVs and monster trucks with the sides emblazoned, "Federally Funded." Hey genius, the vehicle may be federally funded, but is the gas federally funded too?

The chances of drilling and finding a reliable source of geothermal power on Saipan is akin to accidentally discovering oil while drilling. ...while at the same time discovering the remains of Amelia Earheart. ...who was buried next to a treasure chest of gold...which was hidden by a leprechaun.

So who will truly benefit from geothermal drilling? Who else? The well-connected Saipan landowner. I am sure the property rights to drill on the property will be around \$1,000,000. My figures might be off a bit, but if you could pay a company like DCM \$5 million to fix our generators without any penalty clause, it would not surprise me if my figures were actually on target. Hopefully the Fitial administration will disclose this as soon as Governor Fitial gets back from his whirlwind tour to the United States after working hard to sue the federal government with undisclosed sources of money, a.k.a "sympathizers." Such a thing would be deemed immoral, if not illegal, in the U.S. But not in Saipan! But that is another story for another time, one in which we will wait for the Governor's attorney,

Matt Gregory, to state his legal opinion on the matter.

Of course, after drilling on Saipan and paying off big sums of money to landowners, Pagan will be explored and drilled. But even if geothermal power was a possibility on Pagan, the transportation of the power would be a huge expense! How much exactly? Just to lay a power line from Pagan to Saipan will cost \$1 million per mile, which means it will cost a whopping \$200 million! Do you know how many sole-sourced "emergency" contracts Governor Fitial can dish out for \$200 million? DCM could get at least 40 contracts! And maybe, just maybe, DCM might be able to complete one of them!

In the meantime, while Governor Fitial sues the federal government and explores geothermal power on Saipan, our

utility rates continue to escalate without any chance of it slowing down; more power outages are expected because of the questionable sole-source "emergency" contracts that Governor Fitial dished out by the dozens; CUC continues to be run by an inexperienced executive director; and we continue to see businesses close their doors because it is just too expensive to do business in Saipan.

Sorry Governor, but not even a peanut butter factory can solve all of our problems at this point.

It is said that Emperor Nero played the fiddle while most of Rome burned to the ground. While the CNMI burns to the ground, I am sure Governor Fitial will be playing the ukulele...

Play on Governor!

**Ed Propst**  
*Gualo Rai, Saipan*

# The 'New' Ten Commandments of the CNMI

And after wandering aimlessly in the desert for 50 years, Governor B.R.F. Moses led his people to the base of Mt. Tapochau whereupon they established a camp. Thus sayeth C.H.R. Aaron, the governor's loyal public information officer, to the people, "Rejoice, for the Governor shall ascend the Mount and return forthwith bringing better times to all his people."

And upon entering the sanctuary at the top of the Mount, the Governor was confronted by advisers posing as burning bushes that rendered unto him upon tablets of achô (stone) the following commandments to be delivered to his people waiting at the base of the Mount:

1. *I am thy governor and ye shall have no higher authority above me. Ye shall not subjugate*

- before other politicians, for I am vindictive and I shall retaliate to the third and fourth generations of those who reject me, but shall bestow endless employment upon those who follow me.*

2. *Ye shall not make wrongful use of the name of thy Governor, for my public information officer shall mete punishment upon ye by media interpretations.*

3. *Observe Wednesdays and keep them separate, for they shall be reserved for golf and all things trivial. Remember Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, for they shall be without work except as required for parties and revelry.*

4. *Honor thy Governor and Lt. Governor so that their days may be long and fruitful.*

5. *Thou shalt not kill the programs and contracts entered*

- into by the Executive Branch.*

6. *Thou shalt not promote infidelity between thy Governor and his appointees.*

7. *Neither shall ye interfere with the re-appropriation of public funds for mysterious uses.*

8. *Neither shall ye design innuendos or allegations of wrongdoing against thy government.*

9. *Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's stimulus check.*

10. *Thou shalt not desire the benefits thy government has set aside for its officials, managers, appointees, consultants and friends.*

After receiving the "new" commandments, Governor B.R.F. Moses descended from the Mount and saw that his people had become restive and were contemplating blasphemy

and other abominable acts including adoration of aspirant politicians with newer ideas and were building an altar to them.

And thus the Governor became filled of wrath and began beleaguering the people with false hopes and bringing seditious activities in the form of legal papers against those who would attempt to abrogate his commandments.

And now, my friends, you have a choice of two endings to this parable:

1. And the people were satisfied and quieted and returned to their homes, or

2. And the people did rise up and rebel and select a new and virtuous leader.

**Dr. Thomas D. Arkle Jr.**  
*San Jose, Tinian*

## What a shame!

After reading the article "Boom or Bane: Mariana Trench National Monument" in the latest *Island Locator* magazine, I am convinced more than ever that the CNMI has a golden opportunity of starting a new "spark" of increased tourism trade and free international publicity for our withering island economy.

In my opinion: What a shame...that our children and their children may not have the opportunity to benefit from this area being designated a marine monument because of Wespac and the financial interests, ego, and greed of a few

"Good Old Boys" who are opposed to this project. What a selfish shame their opposition brings to the future generations of the CNMI!

My vote is "yes" for giving the Mariana Trench Marine National Monument a chance; and I will vote "no!" to those who oppose it, come election time.

This proposal will bring health to our oceans and give educational, environmental, and economic opportunities to our children in the future.

**C.B. Jones**  
*Navy Hill, Saipan*

## Absurd legal questions

It is expensive to sue the government of the United States of America. All federal lawsuits, especially frivolous ones like this one, are both costly and time consuming. Apparently the CNMI now has a lot of money and time on its hands. One must ask: Where is this money and time coming from?

Private companies, as yet unnamed, have offered to fund this absurd legal action against the United States government. Does anyone even know who these "investors" are? Who exactly are we borrowing this money from? The source of this funding could be organized crime, the Chinese government, HANMI, or even (God forbid!) the Saipan Chamber of Commerce. We, the citizens, have a right to know who is putting up the capital for this venture. It is clandestine agreements that got us the thriving economy that we now enjoy.

"Politics make strange bedfel-

lows," says the old cliché. The CNMI has been in the right bed with the wrong partners for too long. We should be proud to be members of the United States of America. Stalling federalization in the CNMI will do irreparable harm to our economy and accentuate our shame. Fighting our inevitable future will only delay the aid we most desperately need with electric power, potable water and adequate housing for everyone. In addition this contemptuous behavior will further shun the private and military investors that we so desperately need.

These deplorable actions must stop before our beautiful island become the target of more international shame. It is both unethical an undemocratic for our governor to use slush funds of unknown origin to speak and act for us. Is this what we want?

**Ron Hodges**  
*Puerto Rico*



## Business

## Employers use federal law to deny benefits

By MARK SHERMAN  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—Dying of cancer, Thomas Amschwand did everything he was told to make sure his wife would collect on the life insurance policy he had through his employer.

"He was obsessed with dotting every 'i' and crossing every 't,'" Melissa Amschwand-Bellinger recalled about her husband, who died in 2001 at age 30.

But Spherion Corp., the tem-

porary staffing company where Amschwand worked, told Amschwand-Bellinger she would not receive any of the \$426,000 in benefits she believed she was due. When she went to court, Spherion succeeded in getting her lawsuit thrown out. The Supreme Court on June 27 refused to review the case.

Amschwand-Bellinger received a refund of the few thousand dollars in insurance premiums she and her husband dutifully had paid. The total, she

said, would not cover the costs of his funeral.

The story has played out often under the federal Employee Retirement Income Security Act. Designed to protect employee benefits, the law has been used by employers as a shield against suits.

Federal appeals courts, interpreting Supreme Court decisions dating to 1993, consistently have said companies that offer health, life and retirement benefits under ERISA cannot



AP  
Melissa Amschwand-Bellinger shown Wednesday, July 2, 2008 in Houston.

be sued for large amounts of money, or damages. Instead, they can be sued only for typically smaller sums such as Amschwand's insurance premiums.

Several federal judges have bemoaned the unfairness even as they have felt constrained to rule in favor of employers.

"The facts ... scream out for a remedy beyond the simple return of premiums," Judge Fortunato Benavides of the New Orleans-based 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said in the Amschwand case. "Regrettably, under exist-

ing law it is not available."

The Bush administration has argued that the appeals courts are misreading the precedents and has asked the high court at least twice to clarify the earlier rulings. So far it has refused.

Congress, which could amend ERISA to make clear such suits are allowed, also has taken no action.

The result, in the view of ERISA experts, the administration and some lawmakers, is perverse.

"The beneficiary under the policy didn't get the promised benefit," said Colleen Medill, an expert on ERISA at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. "To say we're just going to return your premiums, that's a total farce. That's not what they paid the premiums for. They paid them for the benefits."

Sen. Patrick Leahy, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, said at a recent hearing that before ERISA became law, employees clearly could sue for benefits in state courts.

The court rulings, said Leahy, D-Vt., have left people "more vulnerable than they were before the law was passed."

Spherion's decision to deny

benefits to Amschwand-Bellinger turned on an odd set of facts. Spherion, which employs about 300,000 people, switched insurers after Thomas Amschwand was diagnosed with a rare form of heart cancer. The new policy did not take effect until an employee worked one full day. Spherion never informed Amschwand of the requirement.

Amschwand asked repeatedly whether there was anything else he needed to do and was told no. He asked that the new policy be sent to him. Spherion never did so.

He died without returning to work. His widow said he easily could have worked a day if that was what it took to activate the new policy. Spherion could have waived the one-day-of-work provision, as it did for other employees but not for Amschwand.

Spherion spokesman Kip Havel issued a brief statement when contacted by The Associated Press after the high court declined to review the case. "We are pleased the court has made its decision and the matter has finally been resolved," Havel said.



AP  
Trader Joseph Acquafredda, right, works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Tuesday July 1, 2008.

## Wall Street gets ready for earnings, oil moves

NEW YORK (AP)—Investors battered by surging energy prices, disappointing economic data and the ongoing credit crisis will have something else to worry about this week - second-quarter corporate results.

The unofficial start to earnings season takes place Tuesday when aluminum producer Alcoa Inc. posts results. General Electric Co. on Friday will also be among the companies reporting.

The pair of Dow Jones industrials could give Wall Street a glimpse of what to expect when hundreds of other companies report results throughout the month. Not only are investors concerned that companies can't beat already lowered expectations, but they'll also be focused, undoubtedly with some skepticism, on what corporate executives forecast for the second half of 2008.

"The earnings, which are a reflection of the economy in general, have been going down and unfortunately there's a lot of concern it will go down a lot more," said Howard Silverblatt, Standard & Poor's senior index analyst. "How long can they continue through the storm? Nobody believes the 'worst is behind us' com-

ments from the CEOs because they can't predict where this economy is going."

Earnings from members of the S&P 500 are forecast to be down 10 percent for the second quarter. The nation's banks and brokerages are likely to lead the pullback with another disappointing quarter.

Companies like Merrill Lynch & Co. and Citigroup Inc. are again expected to write off billions of dollars of assets rendered nearly worthless because of the global credit crisis. Since last year, banks have written down nearly \$300 billion - and that is not expected to let up.

Financial stocks last year contributed \$60.7 billion of earnings to the overall S&P, and this time around the number is expected at \$24.6 billion, according to S&P. And, in a demonstration of how dominant financials are, Silverblatt said earnings for the S&P 500 would rise 9 percent during the second quarter if banks and brokers were stripped out of it.

Wall Street finished last week with another decline, with the Dow Jones industrials down 0.51 percent, the Standard & Poor's 500 index down 1.21 percent and the Nasdaq composite index down 3.01

percent. While that was a less steep drop compared to the week before, investors clearly are showing dissatisfaction with the economy - especially higher energy prices.

Investors are expected to remain anxious this week as crude oil approaches \$150 a barrel. On Thursday, oil touched a trading high of nearly \$146 before it settled at a record \$145.29.

The approximately 50 percent jump in the price of oil this year has weighed on both businesses and consumers and posed a challenge to Federal Reserve policymakers who are trying to keep the economy out of a prolonged downturn.

Low interest rates have weakened the dollar, which has in turn made oil more expensive. Now, with consumers forced to pay more at the gas pump, Wall Street is worried about a broad slowdown in spending - a serious blow to the economy as consumer spending accounts for more than two-thirds of U.S. economic activity.

Investors will be looking to a light flow of economic data next week for insights into how surging energy costs are affecting the economy.

## 'Strong demand will keep oil prices up'

ALGIERS, Algeria (AP)—OPEC chief Chakib Khelil says the world's surging oil prices are not likely to fall.

He says strong market demand, especially from China and India, is one reason prices will stay as high as they are.

But Khelil told a conference on energy in Algiers on Sunday that the steady increases of late "have nothing to do with supply and demand."

Khelil, who serves as Algeria's energy minister, blames the rise on the weak U.S. dollar, the cur-

rency that oil is sold in.

He says he believes the reason the dollar has fallen against other currencies is the U.S. decision to lower interest rates in an effort to boost the American economy.

Oil prices hit a record of nearly \$146 last week.

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

## G-8 summit opens with spotlight on aid for Africa

RUSUTSU, Japan (AP)—Aid for Africa - and whether enough was coming from the world's major economic powers - was in the spotlight Monday as the Group of Eight nations planned to meet with seven African leaders at its annual summit. President Bush, arriving Sunday for his eighth and final Group of Eight summit, emphasized the urgency of providing aid for Africa, calling on wealthy nations to provide mosquito nets and other aid to prevent children from "needlessly dying from mosquito bites."

## NBC Universal to buy The Weather Channel for \$3.5B

NEW YORK (AP)—NBC Universal and two partners said Sunday they have reached a deal to buy The Weather Channel from Landmark Communications Inc., ending a drawn-out process that had attracted interest from several major media companies. Financial terms weren't disclosed, but a person familiar with the matter who insisted on anonymity said the purchase price was \$3.5 billion in cash. In addition to The Weather Channel, which can be seen by 97 percent of U.S. cable subscribers, the deal also includes several related assets such as weather services for newspapers and radio stations and the widely used Web site Weather.com.

## Long wait for satellite radio deal

## may end soon

WASHINGTON (AP)—Sirius Satellite Radio Inc.'s acquisition of rival XM Satellite Radio Holdings Inc. may be cleared by federal regulators this month, and it can't happen fast enough for XM. As the regulatory review drags on, the company is struggling to add enough new listeners to cover its massive operating costs, and slumping automobile sales further dim future prospects. XM is struggling with higher borrowing costs and reported a wider loss in its most recent quarter. The company recently refinanced \$400 million of its debt at a much higher interest rate and borrowed another \$100 million just last month. That's on top of \$1.6 billion in existing debt.

## China premier: Continue inflation fight

BEIJING (AP)—China's premier called for continued vigilance against inflation that has reached 12-year highs, saying the government should ensure that price increases are "acceptable," a state-run news agency reported Sunday. Although China's economy is developing in the right direction, fighting inflation remained a major task, Xinhua News Agency cited Premier Wen Jiabao, the country's top economic official, as saying. All levels of government should work to avoid serious fluctuation in the economy, including efforts to make price increases "acceptable" for both industries and the public, Wen was quoted as saying.



# Nation

## Weather helps crews battle Calif. wildfire

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Firefighters on Sunday took advantage of cooler, damper weather to battle a vast blaze ravaging Santa Barbara County as they tried to gain a foothold against the fire before the expected return of hotter, drier conditions.

Moist air currents from the ocean cooled temperatures to the high 70s Sunday, helping fire crews keep the four-day-old blaze from spreading. The fire, which has been burning since Tuesday, was less than a third contained Sunday afternoon.

"We've got a window here with the humid weather that's really helping us. But we know we're in this for the long haul," said Dixie Dies, spokeswoman for the state Incident Management Team.

Temperatures are forecast to start climbing Monday and to reach the 90s by Thursday. The moist air currents are expected to dissipate, causing drier conditions, Dies said.

Lightning strikes were also possible as a new weather system moves in, forecasters said.

The fire, 28 percent contained Sunday night, has consumed about 13 square miles of Los Padres National Forest.

Nearly 2,700 homes were in jeopardy earlier in the weekend, but by Sunday night many of the evacuation orders were lifted or downgraded to warnings.

"People are filtering back to their neighborhoods and they're very happy," said forest spokesman John Ahlman. Some mandatory evacuations remained in scattered mountain communities south of Highway 154 and in areas on the west end of the fire, Ahlman said. He did not have exact numbers of how many homes were affected.

Firefighting crews made progress Sunday in controlling the fire's perimeters, said Santa Barbara County spokesperson Carrie Topliffe.

"It's pretty well stopped on the southern flank, where most of the structure threat was," Topliffe said.

The fire is blazing through 15 to 20-foot tall forest in extremely steep, rocky terrain. Crews are relying mainly on drops of flame retardant by helicopters and DC-10s to control the burning ridges and canyons, Dies said.

Officials decided Sunday that the nearly 1,200 firefighters, from 22 states and the District of Columbia, are sufficient to combat the fire, Dies said. "They're working incredibly hard," she said.



Firefighter Vince Felix burns a hillside with a drip torch during a backfire operation along Highway 1 in Big Sur, Calif., Sunday, July 6, 2008. AP

## Black students helped end 'Massive Resistance'

**NORFOLK, Va. (AP)**—The "Norfolk 17" were honored Sunday at the church that educated them 50 years ago when six of the city's all-white public schools closed under Virginia's defiant response to court-ordered desegregation.

Ten of the 14 surviving members of the Norfolk 17—who went on to integrate the public schools, enduring isolation and their classmates' scorn—attended the service at the First Baptist Church, where they were remembered as fearless civil rights pioneers in the segregated South.

"We're here to celebrate history," the Rev. Robert G. Murray told the packed congregation. "All God's children deserve an education."

The 17 were among thousands of black students denied a place in the classroom during "Massive Resistance," Virginia's state-sponsored answer to the Supreme Court's 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* ruling that declared school segregation unconstitutional.

"There were 17 stories. Each one of us has our own story. My brother died 14 years ago. His story is lost," said Patricia Turner, who along with her late brother James Turner Jr. was among the 17.

Virginia's Massive Resistance cut funds to any school that dared to integrate.

Schools were closed and private academies were created to educate white students who could

afford the tuition. The policy primarily affected schools in Charlottesville, Norfolk and Prince Edward County, which continued its own homegrown version of school segregation until 1964.

In Norfolk, three all-white high schools and three junior high schools closed between September 1958 and February 1959 rather than accept black students.

The Norfolk 17 were turned away from those six schools. At First Baptist Church, the 17 said they found loving, attentive and demanding teachers.

In January 1959, state and federal courts declared that the school closings were unconstitutional. The Norfolk schools reopened in Feb. 2, 1959, and the 17 went on to attend the

white schools, ending the era of Massive Resistance.

At school, the 17 were met by angry mobs and insults. Many said they were isolated from their white classmates during their high school years. The speakers mentioned Louis Cousins, who was widely depicted in a news photograph sitting alone in the Maury High School auditorium while white classmates were seated many rows away.

Cousins attended Sunday's celebration but did not speak.

"These people were alone," said John Charles Thomas, the first black justice on the Virginia Supreme Court and a product of the Norfolk public schools. "Every one of them was alone."

### ACROSS THE NATION

#### Bertha likely to become hurricane

**MIAMI (AP)**—Forecasters say Tropical Storm Bertha likely will become the Atlantic season's first hurricane on Monday. At 11 p.m. EDT Sunday, Bertha was centered about 930 miles east of the northern Leeward Islands in the Caribbean. Maximum sustained winds have increased to about 65 mph with some higher gusting. The storm is moving toward the west-northwest at about 20 mph. It's still too early to say if or where Bertha will hit land. The first named storm this year, Arthur, formed in the Atlantic the day before the season officially started June 1 and soaked the Yucatan Peninsula.

#### McCain goes to church, visits VA hospital

**PHOENIX (AP)**—Republican presidential hopeful John McCain attended church Sunday and later visited a Veterans Affairs hospital in his hometown. The senator and his wife Cindy took part in the 75-minute service at the North Phoenix Baptist Church and shook hands with greeters, ushers and church members before and after the ceremony. McCain had remained out of sight for most of the holiday weekend and many of the hundreds of worshippers did not seem to notice that he was sitting in the church with his wife. The theme of the sermon by Pastor Dan Yeary was that people can lift their spiritual lives through sacrifice. Shortly after the church service, McCain and his wife went to a Veterans Affairs hospital in central Phoenix for a 45-minute visit.

#### NYPD now has own scholar to help review threats

**NEW YORK (AP)**—He was a flight surgeon with the Navy and a CIA officer in Pakistan. He has also earned a doctorate in sociology and written two books. Now Marc Sageman can add a new entry to his resume: terrorism guru for the New York Police Department. His assignment: to teach terrorism workshops to investigators and be a sounding board for a team of NYPD analysts formed after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks to assess future threats against the city. Sageman's residency at the nation's largest police department began in May and will last a year, with a private foundation paying his \$180,000 salary.

#### Theft of car anti-pollution device up across US

**CINCINNATI (AP)**—Marty Boyer's carefully maintained sport utility vehicle growled more like a dragster than a 2001 Honda Passport when he turned the key. "The second I turned it over, and it sounded like a tank and a Harley, I knew exactly what had occurred," said Boyer, 33. A half-dozen office colleagues had told him about that roar after their own catalytic converters were stolen, a crime that has been rising rapidly across the country from riverside parking lots in Cincinnati to highways along the California coast. The pollution-reducing converters contain small amounts of the precious metals platinum and palladium, and they've joined copper wire and sewer grates on the long list of metal items targeted by thieves eager to cash in on climbing metal commodity prices.

## Focus on elk as disease persists near Yellowstone

**BILLINGS, Mont. (AP)**—Federal officials are considering a tentative proposal that calls for capturing or killing infected elk in Yellowstone National Park to eliminate a serious livestock disease carried by animals in the area.

Government agencies have killed more than 6,000 wild bison leaving Yellowstone over the last two decades in an attempt to contain brucellosis, which causes pregnant cattle to abort their young.

Cattle in parts of Wyoming and Montana where bison haven't roamed for decades are being infected, and livestock officials in both states are now targeting elk as the cause.

"We've got way too many elk," said John Scully, a rancher living in Montana's Madison Valley. "Clearly with so many elk, the risk rises. We need to

reduce their numbers."

A tentative proposal, drafted by federal officials, sets a goal of eliminating the disease—not just controlling it in bison and in elk.

Livestock officials say infected elk herds around Yellowstone must be culled—an explosive proposition for a prized big game species that has thrived under the protection of a dedicated constituency of hunting groups. Nevertheless, pressure is mounting to kill or capture more of the animals.

Outfitters and hunters are digging in against the prospect of killing elk, concerned that too much culling could shrink herds. They contend wildlife managers should focus on vaccinating cattle or eradicating the disease in bison.



## Asia

# 'China, India need to join greenhouse gas cuts'

By TOM RAUM  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

**TOYAKO, Japan (AP)**—U.S. President George W. Bush said Asian giants China and India must sign on to measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in order to achieve a global agreement to combat climate change.

Global warming, along with soaring gas prices and African aid, will be among the topics discussed at the Group of Eight

summit that kicks off later Monday in northern Japan. G-8 leaders face major differences over how far to go in trying to set limits on pollutants that contribute to climate change.

The host of this year's G-8 summit, Japanese Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda, and other leaders would like to see the top industrialized nations and other fast-growing economies such as China and India pledge a 50 percent cut by 2050 in the emissions that

contribute to global warming.

The Bush administration has not shown any enthusiasm for such a commitment without cooperation from the Chinese and Indians.

"I've always advocated that there needs to be a common understanding and that starts with a goal. And I also am realistic enough to tell you that if China and India don't share that same aspiration, that we're not going to solve the problem," Bush

said at a pre-summit news conference Sunday with Fukuda.

Climate scientists have urged rich countries to reduce emissions by between 25 percent and 40 percent by 2020 to avoid the worst effects of warming. Scientists say warming weather will lead to widespread drought,

floods, higher sea levels and worsening storms.

Even a 3.6-degree-Fahrenheit (2-degree-Celsius) temperature rise could subject up to 2 billion people to water shortages by 2050 and threaten extinction for 20 percent to 30 percent of the world's species, according

to a 2007 report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, a U.N. network of 2,000 scientists.

The leaders of the U.S., Japan, Britain, Germany, France, Canada and Russia planned to start the meeting Monday at a remote mountaintop resort overlooking a lake formed by a volcanic crater on the northern Japanese island of Hokkaido. The session ends Wednesday with a larger gathering that brings in eight additional countries — Australia, Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Mexico, South Korea and South Africa.

Hundreds of protesters rallied under heavy police security Sunday. A demonstration by about 2,500 people on Saturday led to a brief clash with police; four people, including a television cameraman, were detained. Protesters have not been able to get near the summit venue, but have scheduled daily rallies about 60 miles (100 kilometers) north, in Sapporo, the largest nearby city.

Before the G-8 talks, Bush met with Russia's new president, Dmitry Medvedev, who took office last month as ex-President Vladimir Putin's hand-picked successor.



AP

U.S. President George W. Bush, left, shakes hands with Japanese Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda upon arrival for the G-8 working lunch at the lakeside resort Toyako on the Japanese northern main island of Hokkaido Monday, July 7, 2008.

## Suicide attack in Pakistani capital kills 15

**ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)**—A suicide bomber targeted police officers in Pakistan's capital Sunday, killing at least 15 people and wounding dozens while thousands of Islamists marked the one-year anniversary of a deadly military crackdown on a mosque nearby.

The blast — apparently the deadliest in Islamabad in about a year — again brought Pakistan's battle against militancy, mainly staged in the northwest tribal regions near Afghanistan, home to the usually tranquil capital.

The attack occurred in an

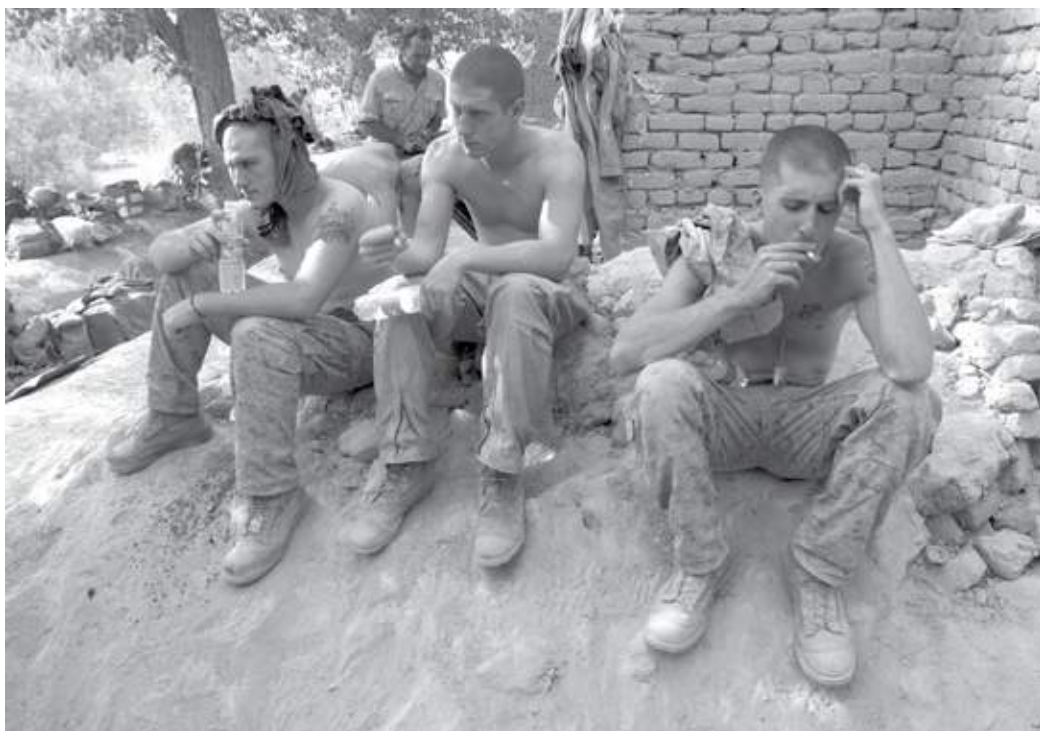
intersection near a police station and a shopping center. Just moments before the explosion, an Associated Press reporter passed by the scene and saw more than 20 police gathered there. Afterward, the area was covered in blood, glass, police riot gear, and body parts.

Naeem Iqbal, a police spokesman, said at least 15 people died, most apparently police.

Less than a half mile away, thousands of Islamist students and clerics had gathered in memory of last year's siege of the radical, pro-Taliban Red Mosque.

It was not clear if the events were linked, and a mosque official condemned the attack.

Sunday's blast was eerily reminiscent of a suicide attack that killed at least 13 people and wounded 71 last July 27, the day the Red Mosque first reopened after the military operation. That explosion occurred at a restaurant crowded by police guarding the reopening of the mosque, and several of those killed were officers. Sunday's explosion also appeared to be the deadliest blast in Islamabad since then.



AP

### EXTENDED TOUR

U.S. Marines soldiers, from the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, smokes as they take rest at forward operating base near the town of Garmser in Helmand Province of Afghanistan Sunday, July 6, 2008. The U.S. Defense Department has extended the combat tour of 2,200 Marines in Afghanistan after insisting for months the unit would come home on time.

## Muslim militants eyed in foiled RP bombings

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)**—Police disarmed four home-made bombs in the southern Philippines over the weekend and blamed Muslim militants for plotting attacks, officials said Monday.

A suspected member of the rebel Moro Islamic Liberation Front told investigators he intended to plant a 81 mm mortar shell attached to a cell phone triggering device, but authorities arrested him and seized the explosive on Sunday, said military spokesman Maj. Armand Rico.

Rico said the suspect, Arman Mano, told authorities he allegedly wanted to set the bomb at a public van terminal in Isulan township in Sultan Kudarat province. He was arrested in nearby Maguindanao province's Talayan township, Rico said, without elaborating.

Security forces launched follow-up operations against other suspected members of the group, Rico said.

The police chief in Zamboanga city, where an ordnance team detonated a powerful bomb on

Saturday, said suspects included militants belonging to the al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf group and the MILF, a group engaged in Malaysian-brokered peace talks with the Philippine government.

Saturday's bomb was packed with about 2.2 pounds (a kilogram) of nails for added lethal effect, Laurimer Detran said.

Police also recovered two unexploded homemade bombs Friday under a delivery truck by a worker at a soft drinks company in the city, he said.

## REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

**TOYAKO, Japan (AP)**—Wedge between America's Independence Day and a summit of world leaders, U.S. President George W. Bush's 62nd birthday got shortchanged this year.

His advisers tried hard to mark his milestone.

As he flew to Japan, White House press advisers quietly gathered in a darkened conference room aboard Air Force One. A steward stuck a single candle in a coconut cake. Bush and first lady Laura Bush were invited inside.

"Surprise! Happy Birthday!" they exclaimed.

"He dutifully pretended to be surprised," press secretary Dana Perino said.

The party for his birthday Sunday was informal; the gift was not.

The staff presented him with a wooden box made from a giant oak tree that fell on the White House lawn in 2007.

Some of the wood from the tree, planted by Benjamin Harrison's daughter in 1892, had been sent to Texas to be fashioned into a box about 12-by-18 inches. They filled it with notes and cards from members of his senior staff.

Bush's birthday also was recognized early, as it has been in the past, on the Fourth of July at the White House where people gather on the South Lawn to watch fireworks.

Bush isn't the only Group of Eight leader celebrating a birthday in July. The summit host, Japanese Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda, and German Chancellor Angela Merkel also were born in July.

■ ■ ■

Food prices are skyrocketing, but it's the price of a bright red sake cup that's attracted attention at this year's summit of industrialized nations.

When the G-8 leaders raise a rice wine toast with their host

at dinner this week, they won't be drinking out of plastic cups. They will be sipping from a special edition of lacquerware from the Sea of Japan coastal town of Wajima—cups that go for US\$1,000 a piece.

The vermilion, 3-inch-tall sake cup made of wood is shaped like a small chalice.

A cherry blossom is painted on the bottom of the inside of the cup, with YF—for Yasuo Fukuda—written over it in cursive script. The initials of the other G-8 leaders are arrayed along the inside rim in gold, divided by mother-of-pearl inlay.

The Wajima lacquerware cooperative, which donated the cups, has approved a special edition of 300 of them for the summit. They are on sale worldwide, but customers will need some patience—the cooperative says the cups are so painstakingly produced that it takes four months to make one.

## 7 killed in suicide blast in Kabul

**KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)**—A suicide car bomb exploded near the Indian Embassy in central Kabul early Monday, killing seven people, officials said.

Gen. Mohammad Zahir Azimi, the spokesman for the Defense Ministry, said five people were killed at the site of the suicide car bombing. Sayed Qabir, the chief of a Kabul hospital,

said his staff had treated eight people wounded in the blast, but that two had died.

The bomb went off near the Indian Embassy, which sits across the street from Afghanistan's Interior Ministry on a tree-lined street in central Kabul.

While Afghanistan has seen increasing violence in recent months, Kabul has been largely

spared from random bomb attacks that Taliban militants use in their fight against Afghan and international troops.

In September 2006, a suicide bomber near the gates of the Interior Ministry killed 12 people and wounded 42 others. After that blast, additional guards and barriers were posted on the tree-lined street.



# World

## UAE cancels Iraq debt, names new envoy

**ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (AP)**—The United Arab Emirates canceled billions of dollars of Iraqi debt Sunday and moved to restore a full diplomatic mission in Baghdad, evidence of Iraq's improved security and growing acceptance of its Shiite-led government.

The Abu Dhabi government announced the debt relief and the naming of a new ambassador to Baghdad shortly after Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki began a visit to the wealthy Gulf nation.

The news was sure to bolster al-Maliki's government, which has been urging Iraq's Sunni Arab neighbors to forgive loans made during Saddam Hussein's regime and restore diplomatic relations.

Al-Maliki, who has been in office since May 2006, thanked the UAE for the debt cancellation, telling local businessmen it was a "swift and courageous" decision.

The Emirates' official news agency, WAM, quoted the president, Sheik Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, as saying he hoped canceling the debt would lighten the "economic burden" facing Iraqis and he urged the country to unite behind al-Maliki's government.

WAM said the debt was \$4 billion excluding interest. A UAE official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media said the total debt was \$7 billion with interest.

Iraq has been appealing for relief of at least \$67 billion in foreign debt - owed mostly to



In this picture made available by Emirates News Agency, WAM, Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki, right, is received by General Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, after he arrives in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates Sunday July 6, 2008 for a two day visit.

Arab nations that have been reluctant to forgive Iraq's belligerence during Saddam Hussein's regime.

In addition, the U.N. Compensation Commission says \$28 billion remains to be paid for Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait. Iraq now gives 5 percent of its oil revenue to meet the compensation claims.

Al-Maliki's American backers also have pushed Arab states to restore ties with Iraq, where violence has declined by 70 percent over the past year. Neighboring Jordan named an ambassador last week, and Kuwait and Bahrain say they will soon follow suit.

White House spokesman Gordon Johndroe said the U.S. welcomed the UAE decision to cancel the Iraqi debt, appoint an ambassador and reopen their embassy in Baghdad.

"We appreciate the Emiratis'

recognition that a secure and prosperous Iraq is in the interests of everyone in the region. Prime Minister Maliki and the government of Iraq should also be applauded for their continued outreach to their neighbors, and their efforts to advance a positive agenda through regional diplomacy," said Johndroe, who was in Japan with President Bush at the Group of Eight meeting of major powers.

In Abu Dhabi, Iraqi government spokesman Ali al-Dabbagh said Abdullah al-Shehi, the UAE's former head of mission in India, was named ambassador to Iraq. The country said last month that an appointment was upcoming.

The UAE withdrew its ambassador to Iraq after the 2003 U.S.-led invasion and after one of its diplomats was kidnapped and later released.

## Freed Colombian hostages urge hope

**BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)**—Freed after years as rebel-held hostages, French-Colombian politician Ingrid Betancourt and four Colombian police officers sent messages of hope in a radio broadcast Sunday to captives still detained in remote jungle camps.

The former hostages appeared on an all-night radio program aimed at rebel captives and wept as they recalled their ordeal, which ended four days ago when Colombian agents duped guerrillas and airlifted 15 hostages to freedom.

"Hostage brothers, what happened to us has more than proved that God exists," said police Cpl. John Jairo Duran. "Don't let yourselves be conquered by sadness. We never thought it would be our turn to be free, and it was. Your turn is very near."

Bogota's Caracol Radio has broadcast the weekly "Voices

of Kidnapping" program for the benefit of rebel-held hostages for 14 years, inviting their relatives to call in with messages that hostages often are able to hear via portable radio.

In a surprise call from France, where she traveled after her liberation, Betancourt sent "a big hug" and words of encouragement to those left behind.

"Have no doubt that I will continue fighting so all of you return to freedom," she said on the program, transmitted nationwide every Sunday from midnight until daybreak. "Now that I'm free, I'm going to try to do what I can in Colombia and other countries to put an end to kidnapping."

Betancourt said French President Nicolas Sarkozy has already ordered French officials to try to resume contact with the guerrillas in hopes of freeing other hostages.

## UK calls for Zimbabwe sanctions

**JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP)**—Britain called Sunday for tough action as well as talk in the face of Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe's defiance and signs of disunity among his opposition.

British Foreign Secretary David Miliband urged South Africa and the rest of the international community to "unite behind a tough, strong, clear (U.N.) Security Council resolution" calling for international sanctions against Mugabe.

Miliband spoke to reporters after visiting a downtown Johannesburg church that is a refuge for Zimbabweans fleeing their homeland's political and economic crises.

South Africa, though, has said the proposed resolution could undermine President Thabo Mbeki's attempt to mediate between Mugabe and Zimbabwean opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai.

The U.S.-drafted resolution backed by Britain would require nations to freeze the financial assets of Mugabe and 11 of his

## More power in Iraq, but shortages linger

**BAGHDAD (AP)**—Don't try to convince Taha Yassin that Iraq's power shortages are finally easing: His children cry each night when the fan cuts off and the house heats up.

Iraq is producing on average 11 percent more electricity this year than a year ago, officials announced Sunday. Improved security allowed repair crews to finally get the upper hand, fixing damaged lines and stations, some sabotaged by extremists.

But demand continues to exceed the country's supply and the distribution network is old and rundown, said British Brig. Carew Wilks, who heads energy operations for U.S.-led coalition forces in Iraq.

"It will take many years and major investment to fully meet the needs of the Iraqi people," Wilks said at a news conference in the Green Zone.

In Baghdad, despite the improvements, many

people still get only three to four hours of city power - and they are bitter.

"It is a tragedy that has turned our life into a nightmare," said Yassin, a minibus driver whose house in Baghdad's Baladiyat neighborhood gets four hours of city power a day. U.S. officials say the current average in Baghdad is about 10 hours of power a day and nationwide, nearly 11 hours.

Iraq's government is likely to earn \$70 billion in oil revenues this year, Yassin noted sourly, "and yet it cannot solve our problems."

The shortages force many people to buy power from private generators run by neighbors or small businessmen. Baghdad's neighborhood streets and alleys often are topped with a tangled ceiling of electrical cables connecting homes to such generators.

Nevertheless, officials stressed Sunday, there has been sharp improvement.



Two Iraqi police officers walk by as U.S. army soldiers stand next to a vehicle destroyed in a car bomb blast in Baghdad's Shaab neighborhood, Iraq, Sunday, July 6, 2008. Iraqi police and medical officials said a car bomb in Shaab has killed six people and injured 14 others, including three policemen.

officials, and to restrict their travel to within Zimbabwe.

Miliband said such targeted sanctions would spare the majority of Zimbabweans, already suffering in a collapsed economy, and could result in those

Miliband also said he supported Tsvangirai's calls for the African Union to appoint a mediator to work with Mbeki. Tsvangirai accuses the South African leader of siding with Mugabe, who has extolled Mbeki's role.



British Foreign Secretary David Miliband, right, visits Zimbabwean refugees at the Central Methodist Church in Johannesburg, South Africa, Sunday, July 6, 2008.

closest to Mugabe pressuring him to yield at the negotiating table. Mugabe is accused of holding onto power through violence and fraud.

"There has got to be a clear mix of diplomacy and sanctions," Miliband said, adding that the suffering Zimbabweans described to him during his tour of the Central

Methodist Church would spur anyone to try to find a solution.

"I've seen the human toll and the human face of the catastrophe," Miliband said.

Church officials say thousands of Zimbabweans have found a temporary haven at the church over the past four years, and the numbers coming have increased in recent weeks.

Around 2,000 Zimbabweans, double the usual number at any one time, were sheltering in the church's hallways, stairwells and storerooms Sunday. The main chapel has been kept clear for services, and some worshippers wearing their church best paused to greet Miliband.

Church officials said despair over the impasse in Zimbabwe was resulting in more people crossing the border. They also said Zimbabweans were heading downtown after fleeing areas elsewhere in South Africa where immigrants were attacked by poor South Africans who accused them of taking scarce jobs and housing—an example of the far-reaching impact of Zimbabwe's troubles.



## Overdrive

## Is the midsize SUV becoming extinct?

**DETROIT (AP)**—Even in northern Wisconsin, where midsize sport utility vehicles are as common as deer, people are starting to abandon them because of high gasoline prices.

It's one of the last places to back away from the class of SUVs, which includes the once-popular Ford Explorer and Chevrolet TrailBlazer. Some industry analysts are already declaring the midsize SUV extinct.

"They're dinosaurs. Put a fork in them," Erich Merkle, vice president of auto industry forecasting for the consulting company IRN Inc. in Grand Rapids, Mich., said in an interview.

It's no secret that drivers are flocking to smaller, more fuel-efficient cars as the cost of gas marches higher. And midsize SUVs are built on the same frames as trucks, which add extra weight and drink more fuel.

So drivers who want a bigger ride are opting for newer crossover vehicles—such as the Ford Edge or Buick Enclave—that look and perform like SUVs but are lighter because they're built on the same underpinnings as cars.

They're not well-equipped to go off-road, but analysts say few people were using that feature, anyway.

The move away from midsize SUVs is painfully clear to Tonie Mixer of De Pere, Wis., who has been trying for a month



In this May 23, 2008 file photo, a Ford Explorer and Lincoln Navigator are displayed in front of Ford's Michigan Truck Plant in Wayne, Mich.

to sell her cream-colored 2007 Explorer, which features heated leather seats and a power moon roof.

So far, the only inquiries have been from brokers wanting to help with the sale.

"It's the perfect car," she said. "But it just uses the gas because we got the big engine in it."

It uses the cash, too. At \$4 per gallon, it costs \$90 to fill the 22 1/2-gallon tank of a 2007 Explorer. A four-wheel-drive model with a powerful 4.6-liter V8 engine gets just 13 miles per gallon in the city and 18 on the highway.

Mixer has hers on the market, asking \$27,995.

"We originally got it to pull our camper, but we're not going to be doing much of that any more," she said.

Midsize SUV sales were down 24 percent for the first five months of this year from the same period in 2007. The decline for May was an especially steep 38 percent, according to Autodata Corp.

People bought about 445,000 Explorers in 2000, at the height of the SUV market, but last year Ford only sold about one-third

of that number. And 2008 looks even worse.

For large SUVs, such as the Chevrolet Suburban and for Ford Expedition, sales declines have also been huge. But automakers are betting they will survive—in smaller numbers—because of large families that need the space and people who tow boats and campers.

Ford won't say if the Explorer is headed for the scrap yard, but at the Detroit auto show earlier this year, the company showed off a version built on car underpinnings that it plans

to roll out later.

General Motors Corp. and Chrysler won't concede the deaths of their midsize SUVs, either. But GM announced earlier this month it would close an Ohio factory that its the only maker of its TrailBlazer and GMC Envoy models.

Chrysler already had plans to close the plant that makes the Dodge Durango and Chrysler Aspen.

Once ubiquitous large and midsize SUVs have become symbols of Americans' overuse of oil, said Robert Thompson, a Syracuse University professor who studies pop culture.

Now, many people who bought SUVs when they were trendy are embarrassed by them, he said.

"There are a lot of perfectly normal families who were driving their kids around in these things who now feel the need to show up in your driveway to apologize," he said.

Jack Nerad, executive market analyst for Kelley Blue Book, says he sees the shift in California, where the image of driving to the wide-open spaces was popular.

"The auto industry moves through cycles and moves on," he said. "I think we've probably moved beyond that outdoor imagery."

But make no mistake, Thompson says—it's mostly about expensive gas.

"The reason that cultural stuff

is becoming so powerful is that everybody's consciousness has been raised by the economic issue," Thompson says.

GM and Chrysler have been trying to fight the gas-guzzling image of SUVs with a sophisticated gas-electric hybrid that pushes gas mileage in a large SUV to 21 in the city and 22 on the highway.

Still, the shift from trucks to cars this year was so rapid that Ford and GM executives view it as permanent. Both GM and Ford recently announced huge production cuts and plans to crank out more cars even as U.S. automakers, and even Toyota Motor Corp., continue to see their sales drop.

The shift certainly will cause more red ink in Detroit, where automakers historically have relied on big-ticket trucks for the bulk of their profits.

Nerad says the Detroit Three recognized the shift and have more fuel-efficient models in the works, but they saw it coming in years, not months. The change, he said, was the most rapid he has seen in his 30 years in the industry.

None of this is much help to Mixer, though, who bought her Explorer in March of last year. Gasoline was still around \$2.50 per gallon.

"We didn't see this coming at all," she said. "I didn't realize it was ever going to get this bad."

## US officials try faux speed bumps to slow drivers

**PHILADELPHIA (AP)**—Cathy Campbell did a double-take and tapped the brakes when she spotted what appeared to be a pointy-edged box lying in the road just ahead.

She got fooled.

It was a fake speed bump, a flat piece of blue, white and orange plastic that is designed to look like a 3-D pyramid from afar when applied to the pavement.

The optical illusion is one of the latest innovations being tested around the country to discourage speeding.

"It cautions you to slow down because you don't know what you are facing," Campbell said.

A smaller experiment two years ago in the Phoenix area found the faux speed bumps slowed traffic, at least temporarily. Now, in a much bigger test that began earlier this month, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration wants to find out if the markers can also reduce pedestrian accidents.

The fake bumps are being tested on a section of road in a business and residential area in Philadelphia's northeastern corner. But soon they will also be popping up—or looking that



Shown is a three-dimensional image of speed bumps painted on a road in Philadelphia, Friday, June 20, 2008.

way—on 60 to 90 more streets where speeding is a problem.

The 3-D markings are appealing because, at \$60 to \$80 each, they cost a fraction of real speed bumps (which can run \$1,000 to \$1,500) and require little maintenance, said Richard Simon, deputy regional administrator for the highway safety administration.

On one of three streets tested in the Phoenix trial, the percentage of drivers who obeyed the 25 mph speed limit nearly doubled. But the effect wore off after a few months.

"Initially they were great,"

said the Phoenix Police traffic coordinator, Officer Terry Sills. "Until people found out what they were."

Learning from the experience in Arizona, authorities are adding a publicity campaign in Philadelphia to let drivers know that the phony speed bumps will be followed by very real police officers, said Richard Blomberg, a contractor in charge of the study.

Even after motorists adjust, the fake bumps will act like flashing lights in a school zone, reminding drivers they are in an area where they should not be speeding, he said.

"After awhile the novelty wears off, but not the conspicuous effect," Blomberg said.

For increased nighttime visibility, the markers, made by Japan's Sekisui Jushi Corp., contain reflective glass beads.

They are the latest in a long list of traffic calming devices in use across the country, including various types of real bumps, dips, traffic circles and roundabouts.

Proponents say fake bumps require little engineering or planning and can work in places where real humps or dips in the road may not be acceptable—such as near a firehouse.

Philadelphia officials said they at least want to give them a shot.

The Associated Press interviewed about two dozen people who have driven over the fake bumps, and only a few said they braked for them.

Al Stevens and his 17-year-old son Andrew live nearby and said they both encountered the illusions but with different results. Al Stevens saw them and kept going. His son, who has had a license for just two weeks, braked for them.

"I thought it was art," Andrew Stevens said. "I noticed they slow you down."

## CRUISIN'

## Finding the right repair shop

By GREG ZYLA  
(C) 2008 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Several years ago, a major TV news magazine exposed the automotive repair industry in a scathing report about unnecessary repairs. Many of the big-name franchises and factory stores were exposed.

The report points to a car owner's predicament, namely: How to find reputable service?

Finding the right "repair home" for your car is fairly simple. If you jump from garage to garage, you'll never establish the needed relationship with the owner and the employees, so find a "home shop" and become a regular customer.

Sure, there's a chance you'll stumble across some unethical mechanics along the way. They won't know you from Adam, and won't really care. If a repair shop has "burned" you, don't go back. Take the time to find a shop that offers competent work at a fair price, and make that place your regular stop.

As for my personal auto

maintenance, I rely on a father-and-son team I've known for 38 years. They operate a small garage that is clean, well-stocked and big on service. It's also a friendly place to go. And if they tell me it's time for new ball joints, I know they're telling the truth.

Car owners, thus, have a responsibility to establish a good relationship with a repair shop. It will become a lasting part of your life, and does not have to be troublesome. Remember, too, that many franchise shops are honest places to do business and can be excellent service options. It's up to you to find that place, whether it's the new-car franchise where you bought your car or a father-and-son team.

Good luck, and remember as the complexity of new car mechanicals and computers continue to evolve, you may be forced at times to use the dealer.

Write to Greg Zyla in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or send e-mail to gzyla@ptd.net.



# Life & Style

## BE THEY OBAMAS OR MCCAINS

# Scrutiny, opportunity awaits next presidential kids

By **JOCELYN NOVECK**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Young Tad Lincoln herded goats into a White House sitting room. Quentin Roosevelt rammed his wagon into a historic painting. John Kennedy Jr. had to be scooped out of a hiding place in his father's desk. Amy Carter famously brought a book to a state dinner.

And teenager Susan Ford, in a mini-revolt, dodged the Secret Service for a brief taste of freedom on the streets of Washington.

Malia Obama turned 10 last week, and her sister Sasha is 6. Should their father, Barack, win the election, they'd be the youngest kids in the White House since Amy Carter arrived at age 9. They, too, would become the subjects of anecdotes that wind up in history books.

They'd have challenges that face few children. Their fashion faux pas, the first braces on their teeth, even their first boyfriends might be documented forever. Their parents' choice of school—public or private?—would be debated. They could even find themselves, like Chelsea Clinton at 13, the subject of an unkind reference on "Saturday Night Live" to her adolescent looks.

But whether it's the Obama girls or the older children of John McCain—16-year-old Bridget is the youngest of his seven—the next presidential progeny will also have an unparalleled view of history in the making, and worldly experiences other children can only dream of.

"Sure, maybe a few times I wished my father was just a congressman," Susan Ford Bales, now chairman of the Betty Ford Center, said in an interview. "But in fact I wouldn't

trade it for anything. The travels, the people you meet. From movie stars to heads of state. It was like, 'Oh my gosh, look who I'm meeting now!'"

Her advice to the next president and his wife: "Keep being a parent. Keep loving your children and keep being available to them." She notes that when she needed something from her parents, she could interrupt them at any time—and did.

She recalled a meeting her dad was having with Henry Kissinger, then secretary of state. "I walked in and said, 'Hi, Mr. Secretary. Dad, I need my allowance and Mom doesn't have any cash.'" The leader of the free world obliged.

The most pressing issue concerning White House children would surely be security. "Way back into the earliest days, the children of presidents have been targeted," says Doug Wead, a former aide to President George H.W. Bush and author of "All the President's Children." Jackie Kennedy, he notes, was so concerned about keeping her kids safe and out of view that she organized kindergarten for Caroline inside the White House. And when President Kennedy allowed those famous photos of Caroline and John in the Oval Office to be taken, Wead says, it was against his wife's edict. Conveniently, she was out of town.

The kids of presidents have constant Secret Service protection. Susan Ford had it even as a vice president's daughter after it was discovered the Symbionese Liberation Army, the group that kidnapped newspaper heiress Patty Hearst, had listed her as a target.

One day she popped out of the security bubble. The White House gates were open for her



Democratic presidential candidate, Sen. Barack Obama, second from right, and his wife Michelle, left, watch a Fourth of July parade with their two daughters, Malia, right, and Sasha in Butte, Mont., Friday, July 4, 2008.

mother to drive in, and Susan whizzed out in her own car, unchaperoned. "Everybody tries it. It becomes a challenge, and you want to succeed," she says. She picked up a friend, drove to a supermarket parking lot and called to say she was all right.

But there were plenty of perks. Ford had the unique privilege of holding her senior prom in the East Room. Malia and Sasha Obama have a ways to go before their proms. First, their parents would need to decide: Public school, or private?

Jimmy Carter famously sent

Amy to public school. The choice was again debated when Chelsea Clinton came to the White House at 13. What better way, some argued, for the new president to learn about the state of public education than through his daughter? Ultimately, Bill and Hillary Clinton chose an elite private school, Sidwell Friends, where tuition now runs about \$27,000.

Malia and Sasha Obama currently attend the private University of Chicago Laboratory Schools, where Michelle Obama is on the board. The Obamas haven't said where they would send their children should he win. "I try not to be obsessive about it," Michelle Obama said recently on "The View" when asked what her kids' lives would be like, "because we've got a lot of work before it's a reality."

Thus far, the Obamas haven't been shy about including the girls in their public life. Their photos have been in campaign ads, and they've been on stage for some rallies and speeches. Malia had an especially sanguine answer when asked how she deals with the crowds: "Those people aren't there to see me," she said, according to her mother. "They just think I'm cute. So I just wave and smile, and then I'm out of there."

McCain, by contrast, is reticent about discussing his seven

children from two marriages, especially his son Jimmy, a Marine corporal who returned from Iraq earlier this year. The public sees little of the McCain kids except for Meghan, 23, who blogs from the campaign trail on McCain Blogette.

The senator's older three children—two sons of his first wife, Douglas and Andrew, whom he adopted, and a daughter they had together, Sidney—are in their 40s. With Cindy McCain, he has Meghan, Jack, Jimmy, and their youngest, Bridget, adopted from Bangladesh as an infant. She told a young reporter for Scholastic News in December that her favorite subject at her private school in Phoenix is history, and that she loves playing sports.

"We are a normal family just like everyone else," she said.

Like the 71-year-old McCain, many presidents haven't been young enough to have small children in the White House, and so a young family like the Kennedys or Obamas is rare. "A young family creates a whole different atmosphere," says Betty Monkman, who was a White House curator for 30 years until 2001 and wrote "The Living White House."

Monkman remembers Amy Carter having friends over to carve pumpkins on Halloween, playing in her special tree house designed by Dad, or collecting money around the White House

for the March of Dimes. She also recalls a historical scavenger hunt that her staff designed for Chelsea and her friends from Little Rock on the night of the Clintons' inaugural ball.

"These were normal, active kids," she says of both Amy and Chelsea. "They were able to come and go and have a life." Chelsea, she notes, was active in ballet and with her church youth group, and the media generally left her alone.

Of course, there was the time Mike Myers referred to Chelsea in a sketch on "Saturday Night Live" as not "a babe," prompting an angry reaction, then an apology by the comedian. And there was a bit of a flap when Amy sat reading at the state dinner. "She didn't attend any formal dinners after that," Monkman notes.

Jenna and Barbara Bush, 19 when their father became president, have been known to chafe at their Secret Service protection. However burdensome, all that security didn't prevent Jenna, now 26 and married, from having brushes with the law against underage drinking.

Monkman feels White House children look back fondly on their years there, but Wead, the former Bush aide, sees a downside—what he calls a "crisis of identity," the inability of a president's child to ever escape being defined as just that, no matter what they achieve later in life.

Such considerations are premature for the Obama children. A more current question: Would they become part of the prankster tradition? Early practitioners include Tad Lincoln, who once hitched two goats to a chair and barreled into a sitting room where his unamused mother was giving a tour. Quentin Roosevelt, son of Teddy, ran his toy wagon straight through a priceless painting of a first lady; another time he nearly toppled a 350-pound bust of Martin Van Buren.

John Kennedy Jr. so liked the hiding place in his father's desk that he had to be removed occasionally by an aide before important business could be done. And sister Caroline, now vetting vice presidential prospects for Obama, is clearly much more tightlipped at 50 than she was as a child, when, asked by reporters what her father was doing one day, she replied: "Oh, he's upstairs with his shoes and socks off, not doing anything."

And there was Alice Roosevelt, who got into so many shenanigans that her father, Teddy, seemed to give up.

"I can do one of two things," he was quoted as saying. "I can be president of the United States, or I can control Alice."

## Essence Festival wraps up in New Orleans

**NEW ORLEANS** (AP)—The Essence Music Festival wrapped up its 14th year Sunday night, which was marked by the return of Grammy Award-winner Mary J. Blige and comedian Chris Rock.

The Louisiana Superdome was even more packed than it was Saturday as Blige appeared once again at the festival, while Rock returned for the first time in 12 years.

"I'm so honored to have been invited four years in a row," Blige told reporters before her set. "It's such a blessing."

Blige was welcomed by a wild crowd that remained energetic until she departed the stage. But the music wasn't the only attraction for festival-goers.

Danae Green, of Pittsburgh, Calif., said she was enthralled

by the free empowerment seminars and marketplace sponsored by the festival and held inside the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center.

"This is just my second year attending," Green said as she looked at jewelry on display. "I had a good time at the concerts, but I didn't know all this was going on."

Sunday's seminars included performances by gospel stars Tye Tribett and Regina Belle as well as inspirational words from televangelist Juanita Bynum.

Green said last year she didn't even venture into the convention center.

"It's different this time," she said. "I'm enjoying the food, the artists and the vendors. I was able to attend the worship service. I'll definitely be back."

Reggie Wilson of Atlanta said he and his family have turned attending the festival into an annual affair.

"I really enjoy it," he said. "We've made it into a reunion. It's one of the few times of the year that we're able to meet up together as a family. The empowerment seminars are great, the concerts are the bomb and I'll keep coming back as long as they keep having it."

The Superdome's main stage acts Sunday also include Morris Day and The Time and Maze featuring Frankie Beverly. Maze has closed out the festival each year since it began in 1995.

Saturday night's lineup included LL Cool J, Musiq, Jill Scott and a tribute to soul diva Patti LaBelle.



# 'Hancock' grabs \$107.3M over weekend

**L**OS ANGELES (AP) -- Will Smith's box-office superpowers remain intact. Smith's "Hancock"—the story of a boozing, foul-mouthed superhero who dresses like a street bum—led the Fourth of July weekend with a \$66 million debut, according to studio estimates Sunday.

That raised the total for Sony's "Hancock" to \$107.3 million since it opened Tuesday night to get a jump on the holiday.

It was a familiar place for Smith, one of Hollywood's most-consistent draws. "Han-

1. "Hancock," \$66 million.
2. "WALL-E," \$33.4 million.
3. "Wanted," \$20.6 million.
4. "Get Smart," \$11.1 million.
5. "Kung Fu Panda," \$7.5 million.
6. "The Incredible Hulk," \$5 million.
7. "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull," \$3.9 million.
8. "Kit Kittredge: An American Girl," \$3.6 million.
9. "Sex and the City," \$2.3 million.
10. "You Don't Mess With the Zohan," \$2 million.

cock" is his fifth movie to open at No. 1 over the Fourth of July. The others were "Men in Black" and its sequel, "Independence Day" and "Wild Wild West."

"Will Smith, Mom, apple pie and the Fourth of July. It doesn't get any better," said

Rory Bruer, head of distribution for Sony. "People just so



Actors Will Smith, left, and Charlize Theron, arrive at the "Hancock" premiere Monday June 30, 2008, in Los Angeles.

AP

relate to him and the characters that he plays. They totally embraced it as something different, something fresh."

The previous weekend's top flick, the Disney-Pixar animated tale "WALL-E," slipped to second place with \$33.4 million. Its 10-day total is \$128.1 million.

Overall business slipped for the first time in a month. The top 12 movies pulled in \$158.7 million, down 4 percent from the Fourth of July weekend last year, when "Transformers" opened at No. 1 with \$70.5 million, according to box-office tracker Media By Numbers.

Revenues this summer are at \$2.22 billion, about 2 percent ahead of Hollywood's record pace in 2007, when summer revenues topped \$4 billion for the first time.

"Hancock" co-stars Jason Bateman as a public-relations man who tries to give an image-makeover to Smith's cranky character. Charlize Theron plays Bateman's wife, who has her own reasons for wanting the superhero to stay out of her life.

It was the second-best opening weekend for Smith, following last December's "I Am Legend" at \$77.2 million, and was his eighth-

straight movie to open at No. 1.

"Hancock" did not get great reviews, but it doesn't matter. A guy like Will Smith is arguably the most-bankable star in the world," said Paul Dergarabedian, president of Media By Numbers. "He's utterly likable and he's real, and that permeates from the screen to the audience."

Overseas, "Hancock" pulled in an additional \$78 million in 50 other countries.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Media By Numbers LLC. Final figures will be released Monday.

## How's 'Hancock' stack up among movie twists?

By DAVID GERMAIN  
AP MOVIE WRITER

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—A Will Smith movie packs in millions of people over Fourth of July weekend. No surprises there.

Yet Smith's "Hancock," the tale of an anti-social boozier who happens to be a superhero, comes with an abrupt plot twist, one that has divided critics and the moviegoing public in the real world (Critics and everyone else can't agree. Now there's a real surprise).

For those who have yet to see "Hancock," we won't give the secret away, but it has something to do with why Charlize Theron's soccer-mom-style character doesn't want Smith's surly superhero anywhere near her family.

Critics generally thought the turn the movie takes halfway through was a cheat, spoiling what had been a promising idea that was a fresh twist on the superhero genre in its own right.

The people who turned "Hancock" into an instant blockbuster beg to differ - to the sum of \$185 million worldwide at the box office in just a few days.

The plot twist in "Hancock" won't go down in cinema history alongside Darth Vader revealing he's Luke Skywalker's pappy in "The Empire Strikes Back" or Anthony Perkins turning out to be a slasher in his mom's housedress in "Psycho."

However, it does give us a chance to buzz once more about the really great curve balls - and maybe a wild pitch or two - that Hollywood has tossed our way.

Here's a look at some of the most memorable screen surprises, in no particular order:

### MY GIRL

Has there ever been a stranger what-the-heck moment than the revelation that the enticing woman Stephen Rea lusts after in "The Crying Game" really is a guy? The dreamlike gotcha gesture delivered from beyond by Forest Whitaker's character was directed as much at male audiences everywhere who had to hit the reset button on their manhood after falling for Jaye Davidson as a hot new screen goddess only to learn he shared their XY chromosome makeup.

### THE SECRET INGREDIENT IS US

How do you turn an utterly forgettable movie into one for the ages? Let Charlton Heston learn that the super-food of the future is made of humans so he can bellow "Soylent Green is PE-E-E-OPL!" And don't forget the "Saturday Night Live" skit about a "Soylent Green" sequel where Phil Hartman impersonates Heston, learning that the powers that be didn't change the recipe like they promised, so he can holler "It's still PE-E-E-OPL!"

### HEAD IN THE SAND

Heston gets to curse out humanity in general in "Planet of the Apes" as he stumbles on the noggin of the Statue of Liberty lying on the beach

and realizes he's been on Earth all along - but in the distant future, after his species has blown itself up. Tim Burton's remake substitutes a terrible twist as astronaut Mark Wahlberg makes it off the simian world and returns to his planet, only to find a monkey named "Ape Lincoln" sitting on the Lincoln Memorial.

### POOR BRUCE IS DEAD

With "Breakfast of Champions" and "The Story of Us," Bruce Willis' career might have been dead. But M. Night Shyamalan kept him alive by killing him off in the opening moments of "The Sixth Sense" but concealing that fact so completely that movie-goers were shocked into seeing the flick again and again after they learned he was a ghost. Audiences were somewhat less than shocked with Shyamalan and Willis' next surprise ending - superheroes are real! - in "Unbreakable."

### READY FOR MY SHOWER, MR. HITCHCOCK

Perkins as his own mother has enduring shock value, but Alfred Hitchcock pulled a true stunner earlier in "Psycho" as the killer snuffed Janet Leigh, the movie's lead character up to that moment. That's like Dickens having Oliver Twist die of cholera in chapter three. Who do you root for when the heroine gets tossed in the trunk of her car and submerged in a swamp?

### KEYSER SPACEY

As prime suspect Gabriel Byrne lay dying near the end of "The Usual Suspects," you just had to wonder "Well if it's not him, who the heck is Keyser Soze?" Watching Kevin Spacey transform from the grubby, gimpy little Verbal Kint into world-class criminal mastermind Soze in the space of one city block is one of those moments that makes you think "Yeah, this is why I like movies."

### MY SISTER, MY MOM

Incest turns out to be the stuff of one of cinema's most artful surprises at the end of "Chinatown," when we learn that Faye Dunaway's little sister also is her daughter. And we get to see Jack Nicholson slap the information out of her - repeatedly - in a climax that's nothing short of a gut-punch.

### MISSION IMPERTINENT

Speaking of slaps in the face, arguably the worst plot twist ever comes in Tom Cruise's first "Mission: Impossible" tale. Millions grew up watching Peter Graves' noble Jim Phelps run the Impossible Mission Force on the small screen. So when Jon Voight's Phelps turns out to be the bad guy in Cruise's version, it was disrespectful of both the source material and its fans. Why didn't Cruise just play Phelps himself, but as the hero everyone remembered the character for? Maybe Cruise was afraid that, like Graves, he would wind up hosting episodes of "Biography" in his golden years.

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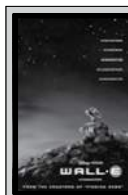
### Hancock

Fri & Sat 1:30 4:25 7:30 9:30  
 Sun thru Thurs 1:30 4:25 7:30

**Will Smith, Charlize Theron**  
 Action, Comedy • Rated PG 13

### Synopsis

A hard-drinking superhero with a notorious reputation as a womanizer enters into an unlikely affair with a small-town housewife in director Peter Berg's unconventional look at the private life of a superhuman crime-fighter. Will Smith stars as the embittered do-gooder whose lifestyle is more akin to a rock star than a role model, and who has grown as disillusioned with his once-admiring public as they have of him. — Jason Buchanan, All Movie Guide



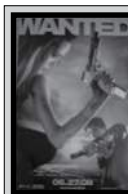
### Wall-E

Fri & Sat 1:15 4:05 7:05 9:40  
 Sun thru Thurs 1:15 4:05 7:05

**Wall-E as played by Tracy McGrady**  
 Comedy, Action, Animation • Rated G

### Synopsis

Disney and Pixar join forces for this computer-animated tale about a wide-eyed robot who travels to the deepest reaches of outer space in search of a newfound friend. The year is 2700, and planet Earth has long been uninhabitable. For hundreds of years, WALL-E (Waste Allocation Load Lifter Earth-Class) has been taking out the trash, and collecting precious knick-knacks in order to stave off the boredom of his dreary routine. Little does WALL-E realize that he has recently stumbled onto a secret that could save planet Earth, and once again make the ravaged planet safe for all humankind. When highly advanced search robot EVE makes friends with WALL-E and realizes the value of his remarkable discovery, she excitedly races back to let the humans know that there's hope for their home planet after all.



### Wanted

Fri & Sat 1:20 4:10 7:25 9:50  
 Sun thru Thurs 1:20 4:10 7:25

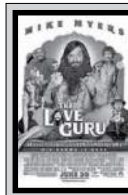
**James McAvoy, Angelina Jolie**  
 Action • Rated R



### Get Smart

Fri & Sat 1:00 4:15 7:10 9:45  
 Sun thru Thurs 1:00 4:15 7:10

**Steve Carell, Anne Hathaway**  
 Comedy, Adaptation • Rated PG 13



### The Love Guru

Fri & Sat 1:10 4:30  
 Sun thru Thurs 1:10 4:30

**Mike Myers, Jessica Alba**  
 Comedy • Rated PG 13



### Incredible Hulk

Fri & Sat 1:25 4:00 7:00 7:30  
 Sun thru Thurs 1:25 4:00 7:30

**Edward Norton, Liv Tyler**  
 Action, Adaptation • Rated PG 13



### The Happening

Fri & Sat 7:15 10:00  
 Sun thru Thurs 7:15

**Mark Wahlberg, John Leguizamo**  
 Action, Thriller • Rated R



### Kung Fu Panda

Fri & Sat 1:05 4:20 7:20 9:35  
 Sun thru Thurs 1:05 4:20 7:20

**Jack Black (v), Dustin Hoffman (v)**  
 Comedy, Action, Animation • Rated PG

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# Reports: A-Rod's wife to file for divorce

**MIAMI (AP)**—Alex Rodriguez's wife will file for divorce Monday, according to media reports. Cynthia Rodriguez, who married the New York Yankees star in 2002, said the marriage is over because of the All-Star third baseman's extramarital affairs, according to reports that appeared Sunday on the Web sites of Houston television station KTRK and The Miami Herald.

The reports come just days after Alex Rodriguez was linked to Madonna in various media outlets and Cynthia Rodriguez's subsequent visit to the Paris home of rocker Lenny Kravitz, who said she came to France to escape the media frenzy in New York and denied that anything improper had happened.

Houston attorney Earle Lilly, who said he was hired by Cynthia Rodriguez last week to launch the divorce case, told KTRK the star's "relationship with Madonna was the final straw for Mrs. Rodriguez."

Rodriguez's wife also is represented by attorneys Maurice Kutner and Anthony Sabatino of Miami and John Van Ness of Houston, the Herald reported.

"She feels that she has exhausted every opportunity to salvage the marriage, and that Alex has emotionally abandoned her and the children and



AP  
New York Yankees star Alex Rodriguez and his wife Cynthia watch the Shahar Peer and Nicole Vaidisova match at the US Open tennis tournament in New York, in this Sept. 1, 2007 file photo.

has left her with no choice but to divorce him," Kutner told the newspaper.

The former Cynthia Scurtis and Rodriguez were married Nov. 2, 2002, in Dallas. They have two children, Natasha Alexander and Ella Alexander, who was born April 21.

The suit is expected to be filed early Monday in Miami-Dade County Family Court. The court's Web site did not list any divorce filing involving Cynthia

Rodriguez late Sunday.

Lilly didn't immediately return a phone call from The Associated Press.

Alex Rodriguez has refused to comment on his relationship with Madonna, who denied any romantic involvement with the slugger in a statement posted Sunday on people.com.

"My husband and I are not planning on getting a divorce," Madonna said. "I know Alex Rodriguez through Guy Os-

eary, who manages both of us. I brought my kids to a Yankee game. I am not romantically involved in any way with Alex Rodriguez.

"I have nothing to do with the state of his marriage or what spiritual path he may choose to study," the statement continued, apparently referring to reports that the singer had introduced the ballplayer to the form of Jewish mysticism known as Kabbalah.

## White Stripes' White pens poem about Detroit

**DETROIT (AP)**—Singer-guitarist Jack White has penned a poem expressing his strong feelings for Detroit to clear up any misconceptions about how the White Stripes frontman feels about his hometown.

White said he was frustrated by a sense that his thoughts about the Motor City were misrepresented since he moved to Nashville two years ago. So, White wrote a poem titled "Courageous

Dream's Concern" that was published Sunday by the Detroit Free Press. He says it asserts his "feelings about the city itself, and how strong I believe it to be."

Part of the poem reads: "Detroit, you hold what one's been seeking, Holding off the coward-armies weakling, Always rising from the ashes not returning to the earth."

White, also a member of the Raconteurs, told the Free Press

that the poem represents his true feelings about the city.

"The ... poem is the Detroit from my mind," he said. "The Detroit that is in my heart. The home that encapsulates and envelops those who are truly blessed with the experience of living within its boundaries."

White told The Associated Press in a 2006 interview that he had to leave Detroit because he "couldn't take the negativ-

ity anymore." In other media accounts, he was quoted as lamenting what had become of Detroit's music community.

He addressed those comments in his statements to the newspaper, saying: "Those expressions of mine have never been a representation of my feelings about Detroit the city, a town that I have strong feelings about ... nor were they expressions about its citizens."

## Koppel series shows changes in China

By DAVID BAUDER  
AP TELEVISION WRITER

**NEW YORK (AP)**—The image of Ted Koppel interviewing world leaders is so ingrained that it feels odd to see him wearing a hardhat for a nervous trip into a Chinese coal mine, or sitting in a Chongqing karaoke bar where teenage girls are hired to "entertain" male customers.

Good thing he did, since the field work is what makes his four-part Discovery Channel series, "The People's Republic of Capitalism," so valuable. It premieres 10 p.m. Wednesday, with three other installments at the same time on successive nights.

The series illustrates how dramatically China has changed in ways obvious and not-so-obvious, from the jumble of new skyscrapers in a city that barely existed two decades ago, to the drag bars that operate despite official disapproval.

The opening images drive



AP  
In this image released by the Discovery Channel, Ted Koppel, right, stands with his interpreter Mao Sai Feng, as he interviews villagers in Qiejiajie, in the Chongqing province of China, for a four-part series examining contemporary China called, "Koppel on Discovery: The People's Republic of Capitalism," premiering Wednesday July 9 at 10 p.m. and continuing through Saturday, July 12, on Discovery Channel.

home the point that the U.S. and China's economic interests are intertwined. A woman laid off at a Briggs & Stratton plant in Missouri, wondering if she has the skills to find new work, contrasts with the company's thriving plant in China. Discov-

ery traces an Ethan Allen sofa from its assemblage in China, the upholstery done in the U.S. to its purchase by a rich couple in China.

"You may not think you care much about what is happening in China," Koppel told The As-

sociated Press. "Let me tell you, what happens over there is going to make quite a difference with what is going to happen over here."

What is happening in the auto industry shows the complexity. China is adding 25,000 new vehicles a day, many to first-time buyers, and the country is embarked on a road-building binge similar to what happened in the United States during the Eisenhower administration.

More Buicks were sold in China last year than in the U.S., and Ford increased its sales in China last year by 30 percent, the Discovery series says. Liberty Mutual insurance is setting down roots in a society where accident payoffs are often done in cash, on the spot. Now some Chinese automakers are looking to export their cars to the U.S.

Estimates are that by 2030, China will have more cars on the road than the U.S.

## Volunteers by the thousands help to make America great

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



**DEAR ABBY:** On April 11 you asked what your readers think is right with American society. I'll bet you were inundated with responses to that question, and I hope you allow me to be one of those who answer it.

Here in Orange County, Calif., there are more than 5,000 volunteer organizations, supporting everything from the arts to zoos. Thousands of people give their time and money to help others and provide benefits to their community. And this is just one American county. If we counted the number of active volunteers in America doing good works, I'm sure the number would be in the millions. That is just one of the things that we're doing "right."

*Dear Abby*

DIANE J., LAGUNA NIGUEL, CALIF.

**DEAR DIANE:** Your hunch was on the money. I was swamped with letters and e-mails from readers wanting to contribute their thoughts. Today I'll share a sample, because I know they will bring a smile. Read on:

**DEAR ABBY:** What's right with our society? I believe it's our young people. I have been a church youth leader for 30 years. It's the most rewarding job in the world! Their willingness to share their love of life is exciting. They actively offer their opinions, and they have good ideas to express. This world needs color and variety, and I believe our youth are our hope for the future.

JOHN T., SPRINGFIELD, ORE.

**DEAR ABBY:** I'm thankful for the Bill of Rights that has insured the freedoms we take for granted. I appreciate the safety net of Social Security that is in place for the disabled, the elderly and the orphaned. I'm grateful that medical technology reaches out to people whether in a big city or an isolated farming community. I applaud a process that allows voters to be informed about the ideas, policies, achievements and opinions of those seeking elected office.

But most of all, I'm thankful that transitions in our society which happen almost daily occur without violence or military intervention. It gives me hope for my grandchildren's future in a peace-loving country.

MARIE D., VERMILLION, S.D.

**DEAR ABBY:** I'm grateful to live in the United States, where I am free. I'm free to speak and move around the country. I am free to choose whom I elect as president without fear of suppression. I am free to choose my religion. I am free as a woman, not an entity that someone owns and dictates to.

Yes, we have our problems that need to be addressed. And now is the time for our voices to be heard. It IS "We" the people

GRATEFUL IN O'FALLON, ILL.

**DEAR ABBY:** I am a high school student in Lake Crystal, Minn. What's right about American society is our compassion. Not only do we help other countries in times of crisis, but we also care about our fellow Americans. Having family around the Twin Cities during the 35-W bridge collapse, my mind was at ease. I knew if I had family members in the collapse, they would be helped because I live in a country where people are born with the instinct to help others during a disaster.

EVER HOPEFUL

**DEAR ABBY:** In our society we have the freedom to be whoever we want to be. The only thing holding anyone back in this country is him- or herself.

KATHERINE IN RALEIGH, N.C.

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

*To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)*

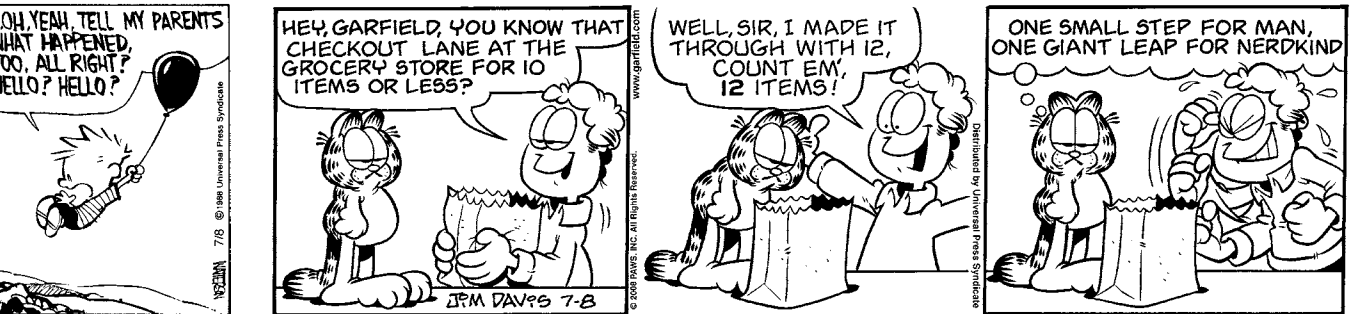


Pastimes

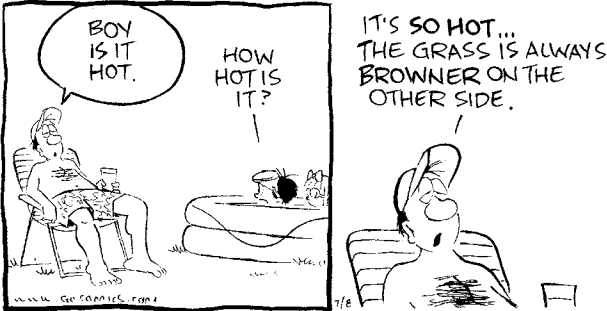
Calvin and Hobbes



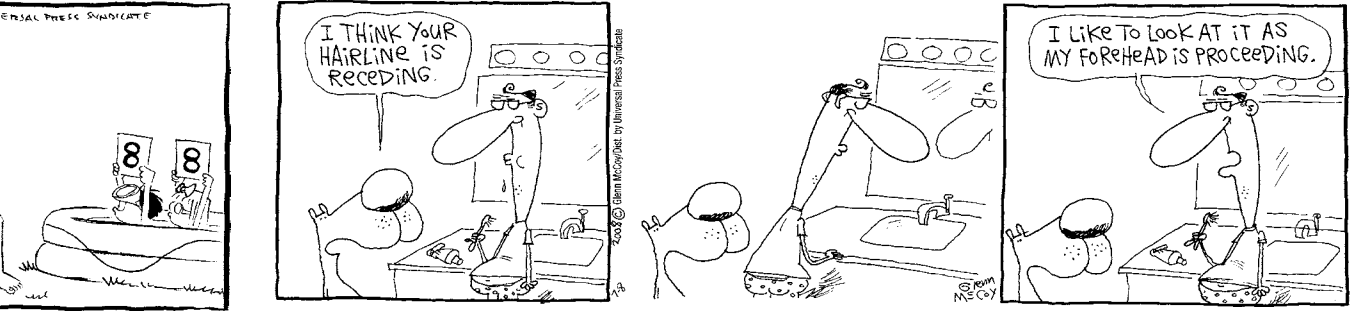
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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

43 South-western cap. city

48 Bart, to Homer

49 Emanation

50 Missile shelter

51 Height of fashion?

52 Dance lesson

53 Venus de —

DOWN

1 Badge-earners' org.

2 Snitch (on)

3 Room extension

4 Bow and arrow, e.g.

5 Choir voice

6 Ark builder

7 Future flamingo

8 Otters' kin

9 Southern cap. city

10 On the rocks

11 Apportion (out)

16 "Smoking or —?"

20 Spoon-bender

21 Forehead

22 Dubuque is there

23 South-western cap. city

24 Knight's backup

26 Three-sloth

27 Series of skirmishes

28 Listen to

29 Glitch in print

31 Himalayan guides

34 Book-keeper (Abbr.)

35 Cruel treatment

37 Chaps

38 Long cut

39 Reed instrument

40 Aching

41 Jalopy

44 Gilligan's house

45 Noon on a sundial

46 The whole shootin' match

47 Menagerie

Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterdays answer 7-8

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kathleen Robertson, 35; Toby Keith, 47; Kevin Bacon, 50; Anjelica Huston, 57

**Happy Birthday:** Improve your living arrangements, lifestyle and the relationships you care about most. An opportunity will arise that you must not let slip away. Emotions will be hard to control but sometimes showing how you truly feel is the best remedy. A commitment to put extra effort into your goals will pay off. Your numbers are 5, 18, 24, 35, 37, 48

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19): Don't take things for granted. If you let down your guard or rely on others, you will fall behind. Delve into what needs to be done and you will overcome any criticism. Communication, travel and surrounding yourself with the unfamiliar will work best. \*\*\*

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): Do what you say and you'll get the support you need. It may help you find a better position or provide you with a worthwhile proposal. Your personal relationships can bring you great joy if you put in a little time and effort. \*\*\*\*\*

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): Someone may disrupt your world by changing his or her plans. Instead of getting upset, go ahead with your own agenda. A work-related matter can be resolved if you tweak what's going on in a creative and unique way. \*\*

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): Love is on the rise and you can enhance an important relationship if you are attentive or plan a special getaway. A change at home will also lift your spirits

and make your place more comfortable. \*\*\*\*

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): You need to get away, do something different or take on a new hobby or game plan. The change will inspire you to complete some of the things you have left undone. Talking to someone about a position or going on an interview is favored. \*\*\*

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Take on a new challenge and you will succeed and make a statement about what you are capable of doing. Love favors your sign so participate in activities that will enhance your current relationship or help you find a new love. \*\*\*

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't let anyone push you around or vice versa. You have to go about your business without creating emotional turmoil. You will get much further ahead if you are diplomatic and unique. Catch up on your correspondence but avoid travel. \*\*\*

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Look for something that will change your life, philosophy or direction. Love is on the rise and a great time will develop if you do something you enjoy. Push hard and you will be able to engage in a long-term, prosperous venture. \*\*\*

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't get sidetracked by someone else's responsibilities. Emotional matters must not jeopardize your productivity. A couple of changes at home or to your financial plan for the future should be put into play. \*\*\*\*

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't hold back; speak your mind. Once you clear the air you can make decisions that

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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can be implemented right away. Take action and follow through. If someone doesn't like what you are doing, dismiss his or her comments. \*\*

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Get down to business and sort through your finances. You should be able to make a few adjustments to your lifestyle or budget, allowing you leeway for the things you want to purchase. You will have no trouble getting help. \*\*\*\*\*

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): Take the initiative: Get out and socialize, network and participate in whatever will improve your personal and professional life. Children and family will play an important role in your life and the decisions you make. \*\*\*

**Birthday Baby:** You are unique, serious about whatever you pursue and will not give up until you get your way. You are sensitive, loving and forever looking out for the people in your life who count.

Eugenia's Web sites: [astroadvice.com](http://astroadvice.com) for fun, [eugenialast.com](http://eugenialast.com) for confidential consultations

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Difficulty Level ★★

7/08

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

Difficulty Level ★

WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

EPHESUS Solution: 7 letters

T R N A I S E N N O P O L E P  
S S A R C H I T E C T U R E O  
A T I H E G Y M N A S I U M L  
O S R M T M R Y O D N E G E L  
C I D S E Y A C T S E F E C I  
O R A M E T M E S G Q N G O O  
R U H U I I R N L N I U R N R  
I O R E O Y R A R B I L E S E  
N T O S N A D E I A Y P E T D  
T E M U I I L A S L R O C A N  
H Z A M A B S N O S O E E N A  
I N N T I I N H E B A T H T X  
A O O B A S E V A C T S A I E  
N R E V I R E G Y P T I A N L  
S B Y Z A N T I N E G A T E A

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Alexander, Anatolia, Architecture, Artemis, Asia, Bath, Bible, Bronze, Byzantine, Caves, Coast, Constantine, Corinthians, Efes, Egyptian, Gate, Gladiators, Greece, Gymnasium, Hadrian, Holy, Ionia, Legend, Library, Mary, Mosque, Museums, Mycenaean, Myth, Peloponnesian, Poets, Pollio, Rare, River, Roman, Ruin, Series, Seven, Stone, Tourists

Yesterday's Answer: Marbled

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STUMPED?

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# Anthony Kim wins AT&T National for 2nd victory



BETHESDA, Md. (AP)—

Anthony Kim is on the cusp of joining the short list of challengers to Tiger Woods, a point driven home Sunday not so much by his victory at the AT&T National as the phone call he received from the tournament host.

Woods wasn't at Congressional to present the trophy, but he surely would have appreciated Kim's performance. After a week of mistakes that held him back, Kim unleashed a bogey-free round of 5-under 65 for a two-shot victory over Fredrik Jacobson.

Kim became the first American under 25 since Woods to win at least twice in the same year on the PGA Tour.

"He told me to just keep working hard and keep it up, and the sky's the limit, and there's no reason to stop now," Kim said of his call from Woods, who was home in Florida recovering from knee surgery.

Even more valuable was what he learned from Woods late last season at the BMW Championship.

Kim showed up at Cog Hill with enough time to wolf down a breakfast burrito, rap a few putts and go to the first tee. He noticed that Woods, scheduled to tee off 11 minutes ahead of him, had been on the course for some time getting ready for the round.

Woods wound up winning the tournament. Kim finished 22 shots behind.

"That was quite a low point in my golf career, to feel like I wasn't doing myself justice to act that way and prepare that way," Kim said. "I just took a step back and said, 'If I'm going to do this, I'm going to do it the right way.' And I've been doing it ever since."

First came a five-shot victory



Anthony Kim poses with the trophy after winning the AT&T National golf tournament at Congressional Country Club in Bethesda, Md., Sunday, July 6, 2008.

at Quail Hollow in the Wachovia Championship. Equally impressive was how Kim steadied himself at Congressional, coming from three shots behind and building a four-shot lead on the back nine until a late charge by Jacobson.

"To win his golf tournament is amazing," Kim said. "I idolized him growing up. It's so surreal for me to be in this position."

Kim might just be getting started.

He moved up to No. 6 in the Ryder Cup standings, virtually assuring himself a spot on the American team in September. Even if he doesn't qualify, captain Paul Azinger said he wants the hot hand, and not many are playing better than Kim.

Kim also joined some elite company. In the last 10 years,

the only other players under 25 with multiple PGA Tour victories in the same season are Woods, Sergio Garcia and Adam Scott.

The other two youngsters haven't put up much of fight. Kim might be different.

"He's fearless," Fred Funk said. "And he's just got that arrogance, cocky attitude, that you need to have when he's in the

position that he's in. And he's got the game to back it up."

Trouble is, he'll have to wait to prove what kind of challenge he can throw at the world's No. 1 player.

Woods had season-ending surgery last week and said Sunday during the telecast that he has no idea how his body will heal from a rebuilt left knee or when he will return.

"It's a time for the young guys to step up and make a statement," Kim said.

His statement was playing the final 22 holes at Congressional without a bogey, and emerging from a crowded leaderboard with birdies around the turn, including a 5-iron that covered the flag on the par-3 10th and settled 18 feet behind the cup.

Kim finished at 12-under 268 and earned \$1.08 million, putting him at No. 5 in the FedEx Cup standings and moving him closer to cracking the top 10 in the world.

Jacobson birdied four straight holes to close the gap, but had to settle for a par on the 18th hole that came with a consolation prize. He earned a trip to the British Open as the highest finisher among the top 5 at the AT&T National not already exempt.

"I'm just happy to play well and finish off the week," said Jacobson, who lost in a playoff after a 36-hole qualifier for the British Open on Monday outside Detroit.

U.S. Open runner-up Rocco Mediate also qualified for Royal Birkdale from a special money list.

Tommy Armour III closed with a 69 and was among six players who tied for third at 271. Armour finished with six straight pars, when one birdie would have earned him a spot in the British Open over Mediate.

Almost as big as the trophy was Kim's belt buckle, spar-

ling with gems around his "AK" insignia. He wasn't going to wear it unless he was in the final group, but youth can be impatient.

"Obviously, it's my new lucky belt buckle," Kim said.

His game is more than just bling.

Woods first took notice of Kim last year during a practice round at the PGA Championship. During a delay on the sixth tee, he walked over and asked, "What do you think of Anthony Kim?" He clearly was aware the 23-year-old had some ability.

Dean Wilson, whose 67 put him in the group tied for third, played with Kim in the final round and saw a bright future.

"Awesome," Wilson said. "Very confident, very aggressive the way he plays. He's always shooting at the pins, and it's pretty good."

Kim still had some work to do on the back nine. He saved par from a bunker on No. 14 with a 7-foot putt, the closest he came to a bogey throughout a soft, cloudy day. He spun a wedge back to 5 feet on the 16th for his final birdie, and as Jacobson was making a run, Kim made a nifty chip on the 17th to save par.

Tom Pernice Jr. had a one-shot lead, but twice went into the water and made double bogey. He had to rally with three straight birdies late in the round just to crack the top 10, closing with a 72.

Next up for Kim is the British Open, and while he has never played on a links course, he has rarely been this excited to play.

But when asked if he was the guy could challenge Woods over the next several years, Kim pulled back on the throttle, a rarity for him.

"I've got to win about 13 more majors to worry him in any aspect," Kim said.

## Oklahoma City gets ready to rejoin the major leagues



OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Mayor Mick Cornett was in a conference room waiting for a meeting to get started when City Manager Jim Couch walked in and handed him a slip of paper with a single word on it: "Done."

Cornett knew exactly what it meant. His city had just been called up to the major leagues.

The journey was a long one for Cornett, who grew up in Oklahoma City asking adults if there was any chance one of the major league teams he read about in the newspaper would locate in his hometown.

"It's not going to happen. We're just not big enough," they would tell him. And until recently, that's what he told his children.

After all, it was only a few years ago that Cornett visited NBA commissioner David Stern's New York office and received good luck wishes—on attaining

an NHL franchise, that is.

The city, which temporarily hosted the New Orleans Hornets for two seasons following Hurricane Katrina, finally got its first major league franchise of its own on Wednesday when SuperSonics owner Clay Bennett settled a lawsuit with the city of Seattle to clear the way to move the franchise to Oklahoma City.

"To sit here and think that we have suddenly been granted major league status is extraordinary," Cornett said.

The work to get the NBA to Oklahoma City is anything but what was written on that slip of paper, though.

There are players and staff to move, along with all sorts of equipment. And there isn't a home for any of it yet. Bennett said the team would have its offices downtown, although no official agreement is in place, and general manager Sam Presti will visit Oklahoma City soon

to evaluate temporary practice facilities.

Eventually, the offices will be included in the renovated Ford Center and the team will have a brand new practice facility. The arena renovation and practice facility will cost \$121 million and be paid for through a sales tax approved by city residents, and the team will have some say in the design.

Beyond that, there are new broadcast partners to be found and thousands of tickets to be sold. A naming rights agreement with Ford car dealerships will also need to be renegotiated.

"We've got to transition this business, we've got to take care of this team, we've got to get the Ford Center squared away. We've got to sell, sell, sell," Bennett said.

The team was already taking down contact information for people interested in buying tickets, although numbers weren't

immediately available Thursday evening. There was enough response that a second phone line was set up to take calls Thursday.

Bennett said the "most important piece" of the organization was the players, and they would be the top priority. Presti and interim team president Danny Barth will oversee the relocation of the business operation. The Sonics have informally asked their approximately 125 Seattle-based employees whether they'd be interested in following the team.

"We did offer to them that if they wanted to make a move to Oklahoma, we would attempt to find a spot for them and we're committed to that. It's a long move, and I'm not sure how many will come," Bennett said.

"We want to put together the best team we can. We will evaluate who wants to come, where they fit, how it works and then fill in from here. But we'll have a sig-

nificant hire from Oklahoma."

Ford Center general manager Gary Desjardins said he had held 75 dates open in the event that the Sonics relocated, and the NBA had been creating two schedules—one assuming the team remained in Seattle, and the other preparing for a move.

He's also trying to map out when the arena renovations—which include new suites, restaurants and clubs—can be done with the least impact on NBA and minor league hockey games, concerts and other events such as the Big 12 basketball tournament and NCAA tournament regionals.

Desjardins said the arena could be shut down for two months following the conclusion of the NBA season.

"There'll probably be a good deal of work done during our slow time of year, which is usually the summertime," Desjardins said.

Cornett said there's only so much that can be accomplished before the NBA season starts in a few months.

"We can probably get some of the bunker suites taken care of, and I think we'll work with the team on revenue enhancements and what changes could we make on a very short timeframe that would have the biggest impact?" Cornett said.

To get everything done before preseason games start in October may seem like a daunting task, but Oklahoma City had even less time to get prepared after Katrina struck New Orleans in late August 2005.

"Normally, I think a mayor would be worried about taking an NBA team under such a short timeframe, but we're the only city in American history that's ever had to do something in five weeks," Cornett said. "This is plenty of time. We don't know any different."



# Cubs beat Cardinals 7-1, take 2 of 3 from Cards



**ST. LOUIS (AP)**—Aramis Ramirez had two hits and three RBIs

and the Chicago Cubs rebounded from a final-inning loss a day earlier to beat the St. Louis Cardinals 7-1 on Sunday.

Geovany Soto hit his 15th homer and Derrek Lee had three hits and an RBI for Major League Baseball's National League Central Division leaders, who took two of three from the second-place Cardinals and won for only the fourth time in 11 games overall. The weekend series was sold out with standing-room attendance of 46,752 for the finale.

## Mets 4, Phillies 2, 12 innings

In Philadelphia, Fernando Tatis hit a two-run homer in the 12th inning, lifting the New York Mets to a 4-2 victory over the Philadelphia Phillies on Sunday in a game that ended more than seven hours after it started.

Jayson Werth hit a two-run homer off Billy Wagner with two outs in the ninth to send the game into extra innings after it was delayed 2 hours, 50 minutes because of heavy rain in the bottom of the eighth.

## Dodgers 5, Giants 3

In San Francisco, James Loney doubled twice and drove in three runs and Los Angeles beat San Francisco for its third consecutive series win.

Andre Ethier added three hits and drove in a run for the Dodgers, who have won eight of their past 10 road games. Matt Kemp also drove in a run.

## Braves 7, Astros 6, 17 innings

In Atlanta, Mark Teixeira singled off the wall with the bases loaded in the 17th inning, giving the Atlanta Braves a 7-6 victory over the Houston Astros on Sunday in the longest game in Turner Field history.

## Brewers 11, Pirates 6

In Milwaukee, J.J. Hardy hit two homers, MLB All-Star starter Ryan Braun added one and the Brewers completed a three-game sweep.

Milwaukee tied franchise records with nine doubles and 12 extra-base hits to finish its fifth series sweep, all at home. The Brewers improved to 10 games over .500 for the first time this season.

## Diamondbacks 3, Padres 2

In Phoenix, Randy Johnson struck out 10 and allowed three hits in 6 1-3 innings and Arizona beat San Diego.

Justin Upton hit the second-longest

home run in Chase Field history and Mark Reynolds also homered for the Diamondbacks, who went 3-4 on their seven-game homestand.

## Marlins 10, Rockies 5

In Denver, Cody Ross homered and drove in five runs, Chris Volstad tossed two scoreless innings to win his major league debut and Florida beat the Rockies.

Ross knocked in 15 runs in the four-game series after coming to Colorado with just 12 RBIs this season.

tory and was chosen for his first All-Star team, Cincinnati's only representative. Volquez was a little off with his control, but repeatedly pitched out of threats in six innings against the NL's worst offensive team.

The four-game winning streak is Cincinnati's second-longest of the season. Washington has lost 11 of its last 15 overall.

## Yankees 5, Red Sox 4

At New York, rookie Brett Gardner sin-



Chicago Cubs' Aramis Ramirez hits an RBI single during the third inning of a baseball game against the St. Louis Cardinals Sunday, July 6, 2008, in St. Louis. The Cubs won 7-1.

Colorado had won five straight but got a rare bad outing from ace Aaron Cook (11-6), who had his worst outing of the year on the day he made his first All-Star team. Cook allowed seven earned runs and 11 hits in 7 1-3 innings.

## Reds 6, Nationals 5

In Cincinnati, Adam Dunn hit a three-run homer that started Cincinnati's comeback, and the Reds held on to beat Washington, completing a four-game series sweep.

Edinson Volquez (11-3) got the vic-

gled home the winning run off Jonathan Papelbon (3-3) with two outs in the 10th, and the Yankees overcame a two-run deficit to beat the Boston Red Sox for a four-game split.

Alex Rodriguez hit his 536th homer, tying Yankees Hall of Famer Mickey Mantle for 13th on the career list, and Robinson Cano had a two-run triple in the seventh off Javier Lopez that tied it 4-4.

## Rays 9, Royals 2

At St. Petersburg, Florida, Evan Longo-

ria hit a two-run homer during a four-run third, and the Tampa Bay Rays beat the Kansas City Royals for their seventh straight win.

James Shields (7-5) gave up two runs and four hits over seven innings to win his third consecutive start. He struck out eight and walked one.

The Rays, with the majors' best record at 55-32, have won 11 of 12 overall. Their seven-game winning streak is the second-longest in team history; Tampa Bay won 12 in a row in June 2004.

Esteban German drove in both runs for the Royals, who have lost seven of nine.

## Twins 4, Indians 3

At Minneapolis, Carlos Gomez capped a three-run seventh inning against All-Star Cliff Lee with an RBI groundout, and the Twins handed the Indians their eighth straight loss.

Lee (11-2) lost for the first time in nine starts, hurt by a rare lack of control in the seventh that helped the resourceful Twins put together another one of their small-ball rallies. They batted eight times that inning and hit the ball out of the infield only twice.

Lee allowed four runs and six hits in seven innings and Jhonny Peralta hit a two-run homer for Cleveland.

Glen Perkins (5-2) allowed seven hits in seven innings for Minnesota before turning the lead over to Matt Guerrier and Joe Nathan. Named to his third All-Star team before the game, Nathan got three outs for his 25th save.

## White Sox 4, Athletics 3

At Chicago, John Danks set a career high with nine strikeouts, and the White Sox handed Rich Harden his first loss in a year.

Danks (6-4) took a no-hitter into the sixth as the White Sox salvaged a four-game split after dropping the first two. Chicago has won 10 of its last 13 games.

The Athletics got a run against Scott Linebrink in the ninth to pull within one, but Jack Cust flied to right with runners on first and second to end the game. Linebrink got his first save in three chances.

Joe Crede drove in Carlos Quentin with a bases-loaded walk in the first and scored on Alexei Ramirez's single during a two-run fourth that gave the White Sox a 3-0 lead.

## Rangers 11, Orioles 10

At Baltimore, David Murphy hit a

three-run homer and Ian Kinsler got three singles to extend his hitting streak to 18 games, leading the Rangers to another win.

Murphy's fourth-inning shot, which followed a two-out intentional walk to Milton Bradley, gave Texas the lead for good. The Rangers took two of three to improve to 15-4-2 in their past 21 series and complete a six-game swing through New York and Baltimore with a 4-2 record.

Radhames Liz (3-1) gave up six runs, four earned, and seven hits in 3 2-3 innings for the Orioles.

Kevin Millwood (6-4) lasted five innings to get the win and C.J. Wilson ended the ragged affair in appropriate fashion, giving up homers by Kevin Millar and Melvin Mora in the ninth before striking out Brian Roberts to seal his 21st save.

## Tigers 2, Mariners 1, 15 innings

At Seattle, The Mariners used backup catcher Jamie Burke in the 15th and the Tigers took advantage, scoring the winning run on Marcus Thames' sacrifice fly.

Burke (0-1) reached 86 on the stadium radar gun. But Miguel Cabrera took advantage of the situation, doubling to center field to lead off the 15th. He was lifted for Michael Hollimon, who moved to third when Burke tried to throw a curve ball that ended up in the backstop netting.

Thames then lifted a flyball to deep left that easily scored Hollimon with the winning run. Burke rebounded to get a groundout from Ivan Rodriguez and a fly out from Edgar Renteria.

## Angels 7, Blue Jays 1

At Anaheim, Jon Garland pitched a six-hitter for his 100th major league victory, Jeff Mathis tied a career high with three RBIs and Juan Rivera homered for the Angels.

Garland (8-5) went the distance for the ninth time in 241 career starts and first in 18 outings with Los Angeles, which obtained the right-hander in a trade that sent two-time Gold Glove shortstop Orlando Cabrera to the Chicago White Sox in November.

Rivera homered in the second inning against Jesse Litsch (8-5) and helped cut down a runner at the plate in the fourth.

Litsch was charged with six runs and eight hits in 5 1-3 innings.

# Hushovd wins 2nd stage of Tour de France



**SAINT-BRIEUC, France (AP)**—Sprint specialist Thor Hushovd won the second stage of

the Tour de France on Sunday with Alejandro Valverde keeping the overall lead after a windy, rain-soaked ride through the Brittany countryside.

Valverde, seen as a top title threat, finished in the trailing pack and retained the yellow jersey after the mostly flat 164.5-kilometer (102.2-mile) route from Auray to Saint-Brieuc.

Hushovd, who rides for the Credit Agricole team, won a Tour stage for the sixth time. The Norwegian bolted from the pack with about 50 meters

(yards) to go and finished in 3 hours, 45 minutes, 13 seconds.

"I knew this was a sprint that played to my strengths, but it was difficult with the wind and a little hill at the end," said the 30-year-old Hushovd, who took home the green jersey awarded to the Tour's best sprinter in 2005.

"I love doing this sport and I'm calm in my head," he said.

Team Columbia riders Kim Kirchen of Luxembourg and Gerald Ciolek of Germany were second and third.

Valverde, the Caisse d'Epargne team leader, is one second in front of Kirchen and Spanish sprint star Oscar Freire.

Valverde, who was 12th on Sunday, won the first stage.

"It was an incredible thing to spend today with the yellow jersey on my shoulders," Valverde said. "Every time that we passed through a village, people recognized me and shouted my name—it's really incredible."

Valverde is one of the pre-race favorites to win the Tour, which ends in Paris on July 27. His biggest first test as race leader will come Tuesday in the first time-trial, a discipline that he admits is not his strongest.

The other main race contenders kept Valverde in their sights Sunday. Australia's Cadel Evans also trails the Spaniard by a second and Denis Menchov of Russia is seven seconds back.

The stage ended dramatically as four

French riders who had escaped in a breakaway fought hard to hold off the fast-closing pack. They were caught with less than two kilometers (1.2 miles) to go.

Many of the top would-be contenders want to save their energy for tougher stages ahead like the two time trials, and five big mountain stages in the Pyrenees and Alps in the second and third weeks of the race.

Caisse d'Epargne rider Oscar Pereiro said it's possible that his squad won't try to keep Valverde in the yellow jersey all the way to Paris.

"At the moment, this team is very, very strong, but the Tour is three weeks long and it's very hard. Take it day by day," said Pereiro, who became the win-

ner of the 2006 Tour after Floyd Landis was stripped of that title for doping.

Cycling's showcase event has been hoping this year's 95th edition will be the turning point away from doping scandals that have battered the reputation of the sport in recent years.

Four teams took blood tests before the stage, and all 36 riders were cleared to race. Riders from Lampre, Team CSC, Columbia and Saunier Duval were tested by the French Anti-Doping Agency.

The International Cycling Union, the governing body, is not involved in testing at this year's race because of its long-standing dispute with the Tour.

Monday's Stage 3 takes cyclists on another flat ride in Brittany, a 208-kilometer (129.2-mile) course from the walled coastal town of Saint-Malo to Nantes on the Atlantic coast.



Ginebra makes it to quarterfinals

MANILA, Philippines—Barangay Ginebra, a team with rich history of epic come-from-behind feats, has gotten yet another good tale to tell.

The Kings completed a 6-0 (win-loss) closing romp in the double-round elimination phase and snatched the last outright slot in the 2008 Smart PBA Fiesta Conference quarterfinal round with a 97-90 win over the Alaska Milk Aces Sunday night at the Astrodome.

The post-elims plays begin with the wildcard round Wednesday at the Ynares Center with Alaska battling Sta. Lucia and Talk n Text taking on Purefoods in a pair of knockout tussles.

Ginebra avoided the wildcard as it beat out Alaska for the last

slot in the Magic Five, closing out its elims stint with 10 wins against eight losses.

The Kings even finished third behind the Air21 Express and the Red Bull Barakos with better quotient than the Coca-Cola Tigers and the Magnolia Beverage Masters who also wound up at 10-8.



**Ginebra 97** – Helterbrand 20, Alexander 18, Valenzuela 18, Caguioa 15, Menk 8, Tubid 6, Mamaril 4, Artadi 3, Salvacion 3, Pacana 2, Crisano 0.

**Alaska 90** – Miller 16, Holcomb 15, Tenorio 14, Fonacier 14, Thoss 10, Dela Cruz 9, Cariaso 9, Ferriols 2, Hugnatan 1, Quinahan 0.

**Quarterscores:** 19-27, 43-43, 74-67, 97-90. ([www.pba.com.ph](http://www.pba.com.ph))

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	55	32	.632	—
Boston	52	39	.571	5
New York	47	42	.528	9
Baltimore	44	43	.506	11
Toronto	42	47	.472	14

Central Division

Chicago	51	37	.580	—
Minnesota	50	38	.568	1
Detroit	44	44	.500	7
Kansas City	39	50	.438	12
Cleveland	37	51	.420	14

West Division

Los Angeles	53	35	.602	—
Oakland	47	41	.534	6
Texas	46	43	.517	7
Seattle	35	53	.398	18

NATIONAL LEAGUE East Division

Philadelphia	48	41	.539	—
Florida	45	43	.511	2 1/2
New York	44	44	.500	3 1/2
Atlanta	42	47	.472	6
Washington	34	56	.378	14 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	53	36	.596	—
Milwaukee	49	39	.557	3 1/2
St. Louis	50	40	.556	3 1/2
Cincinnati	43	47	.478	10 1/2
Houston	41	48	.461	12
Pittsburgh	40	47	.460	12

West Division

Arizona	44	45	.494	—
Los Angeles	43	45	.489	1/2
San Francisco	39	50	.438	5
Colorado	37	52	.416	7
San Diego	35	54	.393	9

Yesterday's Games

Cincinnati 6, Washington 5  
Atlanta 7, Houston 6, 17 innings  
N.Y. Mets 4, Philadelphia 2, 12 innings  
Milwaukee 11, Pittsburgh 6  
Florida 10, Colorado 5  
Chicago Cubs 7, St. Louis 1  
L.A. Dodgers 5, San Francisco 3  
Arizona 3, San Diego 2  
Texas 11, Baltimore 10  
Tampa Bay 9, Kansas City 2  
Chicago White Sox 4, Oakland 3  
Minnesota 4, Cleveland 3  
L.A. Angels 7, Toronto 1  
Detroit 2, Seattle 1, 15 innings  
N.Y. Yankees 5, Boston 4, 10 innings

AT&T NATIONAL SCORES

BETHESDA, Maryland (AP)—Final scores and earnings Sunday from the \$6 million (Euro 3.8 million) AT&T National, played at the 7,255 yards, par-70 Congressional Country Club's Blue Course (FedEx Cup points in parentheses):

FINAL ROUND

Anthony Kim (4500), \$1,080,000	67-67-69-65	268
Fredrik Jacobson (2700), \$648,000	67-72-66-65	270
Rod Pampling (1069), \$256,500	66-69-71-65	271
Jim Furyk (1069), \$256,500	70-68-67-66	271
Robert Allenby (1069), \$256,500	68-69-67-67	271
Dean Wilson (1069), \$256,500	69-70-65-67	271
Nick O'Hern (1069), \$256,500	70-65-67-69	271
Tommy Armour III (1069), \$256,500	67-69-66-69	271
Alex Cejka (675), \$162,000	67-71-68-66	272
Jeff Overton (675), \$162,000	66-65-71-70	272
Tom Pernice, Jr. (675), \$162,000	68-63-69-72	272
Peter Lonard (475), \$114,000	74-69-67-63	273
Bo Van Pelt (475), \$114,000	70-69-68-66	273
Pat Perez (475), \$114,000	71-67-67-68	273
Patrick Sheehan (475), \$114,000	69-67-69-68	273
Hunter Mahan (475), \$114,000	69-72-64-68	273
Tim Herron (475), \$114,000	68-70-65-70	273
Rocco Mediate (338), \$81,000	73-68-67-66	274
John Senden (338), \$81,000	70-69-67-68	274
Cliff Kresge (338), \$81,000	69-65-69-71	274
Steve Stricker (338), \$81,000	71-64-66-73	274
Charles Howell III (270), \$64,800	70-70-68-67	275
D.J. Trahan (270), \$64,800	71-68-72-64	275
Michael Allen (220), \$52,800	70-68-70-68	276
Steve Marino (220), \$52,800	65-70-72-69	276
Billy Mayfair (220), \$52,800	67-68-72-69	276
Robert Garrigus (163), \$39,100	68-70-70-69	277
Charles Warren (163), \$39,100	69-72-68-68	277
Johnson Wagner (163), \$39,100	70-68-71-68	277
Parker McLachlin (163), \$39,100	71-66-70-70	277
John Merrick (163), \$39,100	71-64-72-70	277
Kevin Sutherland (163), \$39,100	69-71-70-67	277
Kevin Streelman (163), \$39,100	69-70-71-67	277
Fred Couples (163), \$39,100	71-68-67-71	277
Davis Love III (163), \$39,100	70-73-69-65	277
Tim Clark (110), \$26,438	73-69-67-69	278
Bill Haas (110), \$26,438	70-70-69-69	278
Jeff Maggert (110), \$26,438	70-65-72-71	278
Nick Watney (110), \$26,438	69-72-67-70	278
Brad Adamonis (110), \$26,438	68-71-70-69	278
Camilo Villegas (110), \$26,438	71-70-69-68	278
Jose Coceres (110), \$26,438	69-68-73-68	278
Todd Hamilton (110), \$26,438	70-67-74-67	278
Rich Beem (78), \$18,648	71-68-69-71	279
Todd Demsey (78), \$18,648	70-70-68-71	279
Mark Wilson (78), \$18,648	70-73-67-69	279
Bob Estes (78), \$18,648	66-73-67-73	279
Andres Romero (78), \$18,648	71-71-70-67	279
J.B. Holmes (62), \$14,808	70-71-68-71	280
George McNeill (62), \$14,808	68-74-68-70	280
Vaughn Taylor (62), \$14,808	70-73-64-73	280
K.J. Choi (62), \$14,808	68-71-71-70	280
Olin Browne (62), \$14,808	69-70-72-69	280
Billy Andrade (57), \$13,620	70-73-66-72	281
Shane Bertsch (57), \$13,620	72-69-67-73	281
J.J. Henry (57), \$13,620	73-67-67-74	281
Tim Wilkinson (57), \$13,620	71-72-68-70	281
Jonathan Byrd (57), \$13,620	70-71-70-70	281
Lucas Glover (57), \$13,620	71-71-70-69	281
Ryan Armour (55), \$13,080	72-71-67-72	282
Stuart Appleby (55), \$13,080	67-74-70-71	282
Jesper Parnevik (55), \$13,080	68-71-74-69	282
Fred Funk (53), \$12,600	70-69-68-76	283
John Rollins (53), \$12,600	68-70-73-72	283
Gavin Coles (53), \$12,600	69-71-72-71	283
Stephen Leaney (53), \$12,600	71-71-71-70	283
Ben Crane (53), \$12,600	71-70-72-70	283
Justin Bolli (51), \$12,180	74-68-71-72	285
Corey Pavin (51), \$12,180	73-67-73-72	285
Frank Lickliter II (50), \$11,940	66-74-70-76	286
Jim McGovern (50), \$11,940	68-73-70-75	286

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NADAL

From Page 28

him, because he deserved this title, too.”

Through rain, wind and descending darkness, the two greatest players of their generation swapped spectacular shots, until, against a slate sky, Nadal earned the right to fling his racket aside and collapse on his back, champion of the All England Club at last.

“Is impossible to explain what I felt in that moment, no?” Nadal said after accepting the golden trophy that has belonged to Federer since 2003.

The first man since Bjorn Borg in 1980 to win Wimbledon and the French Open in the same year, Nadal stopped Federer’s streaks of 40 victories in a row at the All England Club, and a record 65 in a row on grass, thereby stamping his supremacy in their rivalry, no matter what the rankings say.

“Probably my hardest loss, by far,” Federer said. “I mean, it’s not much harder than this right now.”

No man since 1927 had come back to win a Wimbledon final after losing the first two sets, and none had overcome a match point to seize victory since 1948. If anyone could, it figured to be Federer, especially on this particular lawn.

He hadn’t lost a match on grass since 2002, and he hadn’t lost a set during this tournament before Sunday. He also hadn’t faced anyone nearly as talented and indefatigable as Nadal.

“Look, Rafa’s a deserving champion,” Federer said. “He

just played fantastically.”

Indeed he did, earning Spain its first Wimbledon men’s title since Manolo Santana won n 1966.

Nadal managed to regroup after blowing a two-set lead, managed to recover after wasting two match points in the fourth-set tiebreaker, managed to hold steady when Federer needed only two points to end the match while ahead 5-4 in the fifth.

He earned his fifth Grand Slam title, but first away from the French Open, by showing fortitude on his serve, saving 12 of 13 break points. He did it by breaking serve four times—twice as many times as Federer lost serve in his previous six matches combined. And Nadal did it by being better from the baseline, winning 24 of 38 points that lasted 10 or more strokes, according to an unofficial AP tally.

“He was rock-solid, the way we know him,” said Federer, who hit 25 aces. “He’s definitely improved his game.”

Borg and Santana watched from the front row of the Royal Box at Centre Court, which next year will have a retractable roof. Perhaps Mother Nature wanted one last chance to leave her mark, delaying Sunday’s start by 35 minutes with rain. Showers again caused a delay of 1 hour, 21 minutes late in the third set, then another of 30 minutes at 2-2, deuce, in the fifth set.

When action resumed at 8:23 p.m., it already was tough to see, and the players traded service holds until 7-7. That’s where Nadal finally broke through, as Federer’s forehand really began to break down. A forehand into

the net gave Nadal his fourth break point, and a forehand long conceded the game—the first break of serve by either man since the second set.

Nadal still had to serve out the match, though, and he still had to avoid the sort of nerves Federer noticed when his opponent led 5-2 in the fourth-set tiebreaker.

“I played terrible there,” said Nadal, who double-faulted to 5-3.

Down 6-5 in that tiebreaker, Federer erased a match point with a 127 mph service winner. Down 8-7—again, one point from losing—Federer hit a backhand passing winner.

A forehand winner put Federer ahead 9-8, and when Nadal missed a backhand return, the match was even. Federer jumped and screamed, and the crowd of about 15,000 joined him.

“Rafa keeps you thinking, and that’s what the best players do to each other in the end,” Federer said. “That’s what we both do to each other.”

It was their sixth Grand Slam final, already more than between any other pair of men in the 40-year Open era, and there could be several to follow. Federer is only 26, after all, and Nadal is 22. Federer has led the rankings for a record 231 consecutive weeks, and Nadal has been second for a record 154.

Nadal defeated Federer at the French Open en route to each of his championships there, in the 2005 semifinals and the past three finals, including a 6-1, 6-3, 6-0 rout last month that was Federer’s most lopsided loss in 180 career Grand Slam matches.

But the Swiss star kept re-

mind everyone this week that he has had the upper hand on surfaces other than clay.

Not this time.

Nadal lost to Federer in the 2006 Wimbledon final in four sets, and the 2007 final in five. Although the latter was certainly suspenseful, it featured neither the drama nor the all-around excellence of Sunday’s encounter, which ended at 9:15 p.m., when Federer pushed a forehand into the net on Nadal’s fourth match point.

Federer made clear afterward he was not pleased that play continued despite the low visibility at the end.

“It’s rough on me now, obviously, you know, to lose the biggest tournament in the world over maybe a bit of light,” he said.

Said Nadal: “In the last game, I didn’t see nothing.”

Both players figured that if Federer had broken back to 8-8 in the fifth, play would have been suspended until Monday because of darkness.

“It would have been brutal,”

Federer said.

It didn’t happen. Nadal came through.

Afterward, the new champion was asked if it was the greatest match he’d ever played. Plenty of others around the grounds, including John McEnroe—whose five-set loss to Borg in 1980 gets many votes—already were calling it the greatest match they’d ever seen.

“I don’t know if it’s the best,”

Nadal said.

Then he thought about it for a moment.

“Probably,” he continued. “Probably the best, yes.”

CNMI

From Page 28

Other first day results saw Chinese Taipei beat Mongolia, 2-0; South Korea tie Japan, 2-2; South Korea nip Hong Kong, 1-0; and Hong Kong win over Macau, 3-0.

The CNMI faced off against North Korea yesterday afternoon, but results of the action was still not available as of press time. The local booters

close out their elimination round schedule today with a game against Hong Kong.

Making up the CNMI team are Devin Atalig, Hunter Thorpe, Caleb Ariola, Jaythan Camacho, Crosby Shultz, Bo Barry, Stacy Escueta, Jake Lee, Clay McCullough-Stearns, Josiah Orlando, Angelo Jones, Andrew Johnson, Keoni Borja, Mickey Coleman, Misaki Cramer, Masami Hirai, Hunter Jewell, and Jehn Joyner

R.J. Knecht and Christian

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In all, a total of 188 have already leaned to swim under the fledgling club’s program, broken down as follows: 56 in October 2007; 69 in April 2008, and 63 in July 2008.

He said the coaches for the July 2008 ARC Water Safety Course includes himself, Tsunami Saipan head coach Hiro

Kimura, NMASA Hall of Famer Michael Villagomez, Valrick Welch, Tamiko Winkfield, Daniel Villegas, Shin Kimura, Kensuke Kimura, Marystar Welch, Thea Minor, Hiroko Tenorio, and Masayo Fital.

Serving as assistant coaches, meanwhile, were Keana Villagomez, Ashley Welch, Fumika Umeda, Takumi Sugie, and Daisuke Fital.

Good said aside from the

CNMI Chapter of the American Red Cross, which is headed by its executive director John Hirsh, he would also like to extend his warmest gratitude for the management of Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan.

“We want to thank Fiesta Resort for their generous support. They allowed the use of the pool for each consecutive Saturday. This is the third time they have allowed the use of their pool at no cost to either Red Cross or

Tsunami Saipan. Without the central location they offered, I doubt if so many would participate,” he said.

Good said the next session of their wildly popular ARC Water Safety Course will be held in September 2008.

“There’s just too many kids and a lot of coaches are on vacation and then school starts in August so some time is needed to get everyone back together and organized.”

last Thursday booked the first finals seat of the open division when it manhandled Tasi Tours Giants, 108-90.

The championships between Ol’Aces and Advance X-Terminators will be played starting 5pm on July 13. Prior to that, the finals of the masters 40-and-over pitting pennant champs Taga Warriors against GEC

Pawnshop will be held beginning at 3:30pm.

Thursday, July 10, will see third place matches featuring CTSI and Bank of Saipan in the 40-and-over age group and Tasi Tours and GEC Pawnshop in the open division unfolding at the Ada Gym beginning 6:30pm.

Ol’Aces 106 – Pelisamen

32, Cruz 23, Iguel 18, Camacho 16, Rangamar 11, Rabauliman 6.

**GEC Pawnshop 94** – Ajoste 24, Wallace 21, Palero 17, Cacho 16, Umali 6, Casabuena 4, Olaitaman 4, Wesley 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 36-27, 61-47, 84-72, 106-94.

**Referees:** Jess Pabula and Gilbert Espinosa.



# Ada, Borja thank sponsors, volunteers



Washington Representative Pete A. Tenorio prepares to catch the ceremonial first pitch in the 2008 Asia-Pacific Regional Little League Tournament's opening last June 28.



CNMI Little League District Administrator James Ada, left, and Saipan Little League Baseball Association vice president Mike Borja flank statistician Roque Celis during a break in the Thursday's championship tripleheader in the 2008 Asia-Pacific Regional Little League Tournament.

**PHOTOS and TEXT By MARK RABAGO**  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSISTANT EDITOR



The CNMI District Administrator and the director of the 2008 Asia-Pacific Regional Little League Tournament agree that the six-day tournament was a rousing success.

However, James Ada and Mike Borja said they would be the last to claim credit for the tournament's smooth sailing and in fact thanked the volunteers and the sponsors for donating their precious time and money.

Ada, for one, thanked the many businesses that contributed to the tournament, namely Wilson Sporting Goods, Tan Holdings Corp., Saipan Grand Hotel, PTI, Shell Marianas, Digital Motion

Video Production, Roselle & Zest Enterprises, Elite Printing, Pacific Trading Co., and businessman Juan S. Tenorio.

The district administrator for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota also acknowledged the help extended by government agencies headed by the Office of the Governor, the Office of the Lt. Governor, Office of the Washington Representative, Saipan Mayor's Office, Department of Public Works, Marianas Visitors Authority, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, Division of Sports Recreation, Reps. Ed Salas, Ray Palacios, Rosemond Santos, Department of Public Safety, Department of Public Health, Commonwealth Utilities Corp., Public School System, Department of Public Works, and Emergency Management Services.

He also thanked KMCV, *Marianas Variety*, and the *Saipan Tribune* for the coverage they gave to the 2008 Asia-Pacific Regional Little League Tournament.

Borja, for his part, extended his gratitude to the ASPAC players and their parents, coaches, managers, and volunteers for all their hand work during the tournament.

He made special mention assistant district administrators Tony Rogolifoi and Cathy S. Salas, umpire adviser Robert Guerrero, technical members Joe S. Salas and Tony Rogolifoi, facilities head Joey Dela Cruz, safety officer Ben Taitano, transportation staff Steve Pangelinan and Gus Aldan, traffic head Jerry Ayuyu, and tournament committee members Elizabeth S. Ada, Rose Tenorio, Terry DL. Guerrero, Annie DLG. Guerrero, Geraldine Sablan, and Gary Camacho.

The two however acknowledged that there were some speed bumps along the way, noting that shenanigans off the baseball field were more the responsibility of team managers than the district administrator and the tournament director.

Ada also said that protests are also always part of any tournament and the important thing was that the tournament director was able to resolve them.

The 2008 Asia-Pacific Regional Little League Tournament saw the Philippines rule the Junior and Senior League by beating the CNMI in identical scores of 7-6. The CNMI then won one for the home crowd when they beat the Philippines, 8-7, in the Big League.



The Philippines Senior All-Stars shake hands with their counterparts from the CNMI following their championship game Thursday at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.



The Philippines Junior All-Stars receive their championship medals during the awards ceremonies of the 2008 Asia-Pacific Regional Little League Tournament Thursday night at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.



Fans pose with members of the Philippines Junior All-Stars after they beat the CNMI, 7-6, in the finals Thursday.



The CNMI Big League All-Stars flash the No. 1 sign while atop the mound following their 8-7 victory against the Philippines in the 2008 Asia-Pacific Regional Little League Tournament Thursday night at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.



From left, Guam Little League Baseball District Administrator Stephen J. Guerrero, Little League Asia-Pacific Regional Director B.H. Chow, Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez, Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela, and CNMI Little League District Administrator James Ada listen to Bob Coldeen's introductions during the 2008 Asia-Pacific Regional Little League Tournament's opening ceremony last June 28.





### Ada, Borja thank sponsors, volunteers

The CNMI District Administrator and the director of the 2008 Asia-Pacific Regional Little League Tournament agree that the six-day tournament was a rousing success.

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

### Anthony Kim wins AT&T National for 2nd victory

Anthony Kim is on the cusp of joining the short list of challengers to Tiger Woods, a point driven home Sunday not so much by his victory at the AT&T National as the phone call he received from the tournament host.

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# Nadal ends Federer reign at Wimbledon

## Ol'Aces advance to title game

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSISTANT EDITOR



Powerhouse Ol'Aces made use of what little personnel it had to advance to the finals of the Inaugural FMI Inter-

Color Basketball League after beating GEC Pawnshop, 106-94, Sunday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Oleai team dressed only six players but that didn't prevent them from forging a best-of-three championship series against Advance X-Terminators set this coming Sunday, also at the Oleai Sports Complex hardwood.

Led by the 28 combined points of shooting devils Jericho Cruz and Fred Pelisamen, Ol'Aces took control early and led 36-27 following a high-scoring first quarter.

It was Pete Iguel's turn to light up the scoreboard in the second, as the do-it-all swingman exploded for his own dozen to make sure Ol'Aces stayed at the helm and entered intermission ahead, 61-47.

GEC Pawnshop tried to mount a comeback in the third frame, courtesy of the nine markers of spitfire Manuel Ajoste, but the point guard's scoring flurry proved too little as Ol'Aces remained in the driver's seat, 84-72, after three quarters of play.

In the payoff period, Pelisamen reverted to his gun-slinging ways, firing eight more points to negate Ajoste's own 10-point explosion and keep GEC Pawnshop on arm's length, paving the way for the dozen-point victory for Ol'Aces.

Pelisamen led all scorers with 32 markers, while Cruz and Iguel added 23 and 18, respectively, in support. Hurling center Abong Camacho and ageless wonder Elias Rangamar pumped in 16 and 11 for good measure.

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By HOWARD FENDRICH  
AP TENNIS WRITER

Rafael Nadal, grass stains on his white shirt and a Spanish flag tucked under his arm, scampered through the Centre Court stands to celebrate his first Wimbledon title with hugs and handshakes.

Roger Federer sat in his changeover chair, protected from the night's chill by his custom-made

cream cardigan with the gold "RF" on the chest. Alone with his thoughts, alone with the knowledge that he had come so close to becoming the first man since the 1880s to win a sixth consecutive championship at the All England Club.

Two points from victory, the No. 1-ranked Federer couldn't pull it out, instead succumbing to No. 2 Nadal 6-4, 6-4, 6-7 (5), 6-7 (8), 9-7 Sunday night in a 4-hour, 48-minute test of wills that was the longest men's final in Wimbledon history—and quite possibly the greatest.

Even Nadal felt sympathy for Federer.

"I am very happy for me," Nadal said, "but sorry for

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AP  
Spain's Rafael Nadal bites on his trophy as he celebrates his defeat of Switzerland's Roger Federer in the men's singles final on the Centre Court at Wimbledon, Sunday, July 6, 2008.

## CNMI loses to Macau, China on opening day

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSISTANT EDITOR



The CNMI lost its first two games Sunday in the first day of the EAFF U-14 Youth Festival 2008 Guam at the Leo Palace Resort.

The 18-man youth team of the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association lost its debut against Macau, 0-2, before being pummeled by powerhouse China in its second game, 0-15.

While the CNMI lost its first two games, the islands' southern neighbor, Guam, split its first two assignments. It beat Chinese Taipei, 2-1, but lost to South Korea, 0-1.

See CNMI on Page 26



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Northern Mariana Islands Football Association's team to the EAFF U-14 Youth Festival 2008 Guam pose for a photo.

## 63 graduate from ARC Water Safety Course

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSISTANT EDITOR



Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan concluded its latest American Red Cross Water Safety Course last Saturday at Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan with 63 students receiving their certificate of completions.

Club president Stan Good said of the 63 who graduated, 22 were from Level I, 16 from Level 2, 19 from Level 3, and four in Level 6. Level 1 is for beginners, while

Level 6 is for advance swimmers.

Last Saturday's conclusion of Tsunami Saipan's ARC Water Safety Course was its third for the 2007-2008 season.

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
The 63 participants of the American Red Cross Water Safety Course pose with their coaches and assistant coaches from Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan during their graduation ceremony Saturday at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan.